

U.S. economic warfare

Gustavo R. González, Panama's Minister of Planning and Economic Policy:

. . . In 1988, United States government aggression against our economy stiffened. In its economic aspect, the aggression focused on attacking internal and external payments systems, as well as tax collections.

The freezing of the National Bank of Panama's deposits in the U. S. Federal Reserve impeded check-clearing operations in our banking system. In addition to the uncertainty created, that led to closing down the banking system for nine weeks, which provoked a substantial reduction in the monetary base.

The country's production of goods and services fell 17.1% in 1988, which translates into a 19.3% per capita reduction in product, a regression to the levels of the late 1970s. . . .

Our exports of goods and services were reduced 11.1% in 1988, as a consequence of coercive measures, especially the paralysis of our international payments system, the elimination of tariff preferences some Panamanian exports had in the U. S. market, and the disinformation campaign which discouraged tourists from coming.

On the import side, those measures endangered supplies of food, medicine, fertilizer, and inputs and strategic intermediary goods for manufacturing, which caused scarcity of basic consumer goods. Imports were cut on the order of 35.3%, with foodstuffs going down 29.2% and intermediate consumption goods (excluding petroleum) down 44.1%.

Outstanding—for their magnitude, nature, and implications for compliance with international contracts—among the measures of aggression against the public finances are the suspension of payments which were agreed in the Canal Treaty to the Republic of Panama and the prohibition of United States citizens and U.S.-owned companies operating in Panama from paying taxes, fees, dividends, or any other disbursement to the government of the Republic of Panama and its dependencies, under threat of fines and imprisonment. Through these measures, the U. S. government and U. S. companies withheld an estimated \$175.3 million from the Panamanian government. That withholding of tax revenues belonging to the Panamanian people [continued] during 1989 [and] is now estimated at more than \$250 million.

The deterioration of economic activity had a major impact on the labor market, causing open unemployment to rise from 11.8% to 16.0% in 1988. . . . There were 125,000 unemployed at mid-year last year.

In 1988, 33.6% of the Panamanian population lived in poverty. The crisis raised that to 40.2%, which implies that 151,000 are in poverty. . . . Health care deteriorated.

Given the havoc wreaked on our economy by the economic aggression against us, it is estimated that the reconstruction process will take Panamanian society at least half a decade of continuous effort and sacrifice.

Socialists promote global green fascism

by Mark Burdman

On the occasion of its 100th anniversary meetings in Stockholm, Sweden, June 20-22, the Socialist International proclaimed a "new mission" for its members: the creation of a green fascist world order. Thus, while tumultuous events in China and the Soviet bloc shook the foundations of the current world political structure, the Socialist International (SI) showed itself to be worse than irrelevant. It touted the very fascist policies, which people living under communist tyranny are now offering their lives in order to defeat.

Speakers at the anniversary celebrations endorsed the Soviet government's proposal for "international ecological security," and demanded the implementation of the genocidal "sustainable development" program put forward by the World Commission for Environment and Development, better known as the Brundtland Commission. This is headed by Gro-Harlem Brundtland, the Socialist prime minister of Norway, who was a featured speaker at the Stockholm event.

Stockholm was the site of the 1972 U.N. Global Conference on Man and the Environment, which for all intents and purposes launched the "environmentalist" movement. This history was enthusiastically invoked by Swedish Minister of the Environment Birgitta Dahl, who noted in her speech that "the new mission" of global ecologism was particularly crucial now, because 1992 will be the year of the Second Global Conference on Man and the Environment.

Dahl is the chairman of the Environment Committee of the Socialist International, which produced a 37-page manifesto entitled "Towards Environmental Security: A Strategy for Long-Term Survival." Under the cover of defending "the working class, the poor, and the underprivileged," the program uses the manipulative rallying cry of "protecting the environment" to undermine the continuing commitment of developing countries to technological progress.

In the weeks leading up to the Stockholm conference, Swedish Agriculture Minister Mats Hellstroem, writing in *Tiden*, the monthly theoretical magazine of the Swedish Social Democratic Party, identified the main challenge of the Socialist International to be to induce the countries of the South to abandon their commitment to economic growth (see

EIR, May 26, 1989, "Swedish Socialists Prepare Model for 'Fascism With an Ecological Face' "). During the just-concluded meeting in Stockholm, Hellstrom was chairman of the resolution committee.

Promoting global starvation

The focus of the SI on the environment is prominent in the "Declaration of Principles of the Socialist International" distributed at the event. In its first section, "Global Change and Future Prospects," the Declaration of Principles warns: "The physical conditions for life on the planet are threatened by an uncontrolled urban and industrial expansion, the degradation of the biosphere, and the irrational exploitation of vital resources."

Later, the authors state: "Since environmental destruction extends across national frontiers, environmental protection must be international. . . . We advocate joint international efforts to replace all environmentally damaging products and processes by alternatives which enhance nature. The transfer of technology from North to South must not be allowed to become a matter of exporting ecologically unacceptable systems."

Several paragraphs further, it becomes clear that this "environmentalism" is just another way of reintroducing the "appropriate technologies" and "quality-of-life" policies that are the essence of the SI's "fascism with a human face" orientation of past years, whose aim is to deprive the Third World of the advanced technology needed to lift its people out of poverty: "Social progress requires, and inspires, technological progress. What is needed is technology appropriate to the different conditions, experiences and levels of development prevailing in the North and in the South. There must be a substantial transfer of suitable technology—and of basic technological know-how—between North and South."

What all of this rhetoric is really about, is to bring about the conditions for reducing the world population through starvation—all, of course, in the name of "the working class, the poor and the underprivileged"!

Section 3.2 of the "Towards Environmental Security" manifesto is entitled "Plans for Adaptation." Under this, Section 3.2.1 is entitled, "Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security." It reads, in part:

"Agriculture and food policies for sustainable development and food security must include:

- "In countries with a highly industrialized agriculture, a considerable reduction in leakage of nutrients and chemicals from agriculture to ground and inland water is already necessary in the short term. In the longer term, a complete end to this leakage is needed. To achieve this, the use of fertilizers and pesticides will have to decrease substantially.

- "In order to ensure healthy food of good quality, the use of chemical pesticides has to be substantially reduced, with a view to phasing out most of this use. Alternative

production without chemicals should be supported. . . .

- "Conservation of food products by irradiation only conceals decay and should be phased out.

- "Subsidizing of food exports from industrialized countries must be ended, and room given for larger imports of food to those countries (while recognizing their right to preserve, for security reasons, an agricultural potential for feeding their population). This could, at least in part, be achieved by reduced use of fertilizers and pesticides. . . .

- "Physical planning and incentive systems must be changed. Policies should vary from region to region, in order to reflect different regional needs, encouraging farmers to adopt practices which are sustainable in their own areas."

The "Energy Security" program centers on "intensified conservation methods," coupled with the replacement of nuclear and fossil fuels with "alternative and more environmentally benign sources of energy," including wind energy, biomass, solar power, fuel cells and hydrogen power.

Soon thereafter, in a subsection entitled "Human Settlements," the manifesto states: "The world's population is growing fast. This is a cause of concern to many."

Global ecological enforcement

The conference heard a number of additional specific proposals, all converging around Mikhail Gorbachov's idea of U.N.-administered enforcement of the environmentalist world order.

- Denmark's Sven Auken called for "the establishment of a Security Council for the Environment, built on the model of the United Nations Security Council, with binding decision-making powers but without veto for any one member."

Auken's proposal is implied in the "Towards Environmental Security" manifesto, which asserts, "A rethinking of the concept of national security is needed, in order to incorporate environmental and developmental factors. . . . Our life-sustaining ecological systems are at stake."

- Mrs. Brundtland and the Netherlands' Wim Kok jointly called for an International Fund for the Environment, to help bring about "actual change in economic and ecological policy." This call was endorsed by Socialist International chairman Willy Brandt of West Germany.

- Italy's Francesco Forte said that "the World Bank should be transformed into the World Economic and Ecological Bank," to systematically implement "debt for nature tradeoffs," by negotiating "credits in favor of the various Third World countries, in exchange for the preservation of given environmental assets.

It should be noted that Greenpeace, the international ecological activist organization linked to Soviet intelligence, participated in the conference as an invited "observer" organization, and circulated an open letter calling for Socialist International support for a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty.