

## Zaire: Case study in IMF's 'AIDS belt'

When Harvard Medical School's Dr. William Haseltine revealed that 10 million people in what he called the "AIDS belt" of Central Africa are infected by the AIDS virus, he also reported that this includes 1 out of every 6 people in Zaire.

Zaire is perfect proof, as *EIR* has charged, that in the strictest sense, the IMF causes AIDS.

Over a decade ago, *EIR* and other publications associated with economist Lyndon LaRouche first warned that a "biological holocaust" was being courted by those banker Malthusians who were imposing crushing austerity on the nations of the Third World through the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

In 1974, a team of investigators was commissioned by LaRouche to extrapolate the outcome of the IMF/World Bank policies then in force into the 1980s. The study warned that new pandemics would likely begin in Africa, and multiply "as long as the thermodynamic conditions of ecological entropy were maintained" by such economic policies. The study was accompanied by a map projecting nearly 1 billion deaths worldwide, of which 150 million would occur in Africa, by about 1987-88.

In the summer of 1980, the Carter administration unveiled *The Global 2000 Report to the President*, recommending policies which would reduce world population by some 2 billion before the end of the century.

On Aug. 19, 1980, *EIR* reported that the policies espoused by *Global 2000* had already gone far toward depopulating Zaire, "once a major country with some industry, much mining, and a large population. The starvation in this part of the Congo is the direct and immediate result of International Monetary Fund stringency imposed on that country, not any natural causes."

*Zaire is today one of the major centers of the AIDS disease, and the country in which it was first discovered that AIDS was afflicting heterosexual and non-drug-using members of the population on a large scale.*

"Although Zaire has been little affected by the drought presently scorching most of eastern Africa," *EIR's* coverage continued, "its population is being exterminated." This was

written and published by *EIR* in 1980—three years before AIDS was identified in Africa.

"In December 1979, under IMF direction, the government of Zaire announced that all citizens must turn in their holdings of the old Zairean currency in exchange for a new one. Especially in rural areas, many Zaireans were unable to exchange their money within the allotted time, and were left with piles of worthless paper. This was followed by a series of devaluations which raised the cost of imported wheat and increased the price of bread by 60%. As a result the population can no longer afford to purchase food.

"Urban food shortages are developing because there is no way to transport food from the countryside. Zaire's road system is in utter disrepair. Food cannot be flown into the cities because of fuel shortages (fuel sells for \$10-12 a gallon). Waterways cannot be used because there are no spare parts for boats. These shortages are the consequence of IMF orders to reduce imports so that all available foreign exchange can be used to finance debt service.

"According to a dispatch from the U.S. embassy in Zaire, the sharp decline in purchasing power 'may well have wiped out the middle class' in Zaire, whose diet is now hard to distinguish from that of the rest of the population. The typical intake for an employed urban worker's family in Zaire is said to consist of a breakfast of bread in the morning (sometimes with butter and tea or coffee) and nothing more till the evening, when *fufu*, a paste made from manioc flour, and manioc leaves, is prepared. The unemployed consume far less."

After 1975, when Zaire first began negotiations to reschedule its foreign debts, the IMF forced the Zairean government to accept IMF representatives in key government posts,

*The IMF became, quite literally, the government of Zaire.*

In 1979, the IMF launched a "stabilization program" involving rescheduling of Zaire's then \$4.9 billion foreign debt, loans of \$1.2 billion and a program of public investment. However, faced with social unrest, the Zairean government could not carry out the drastic measures the IMF demanded. In consequence, Zaire only received one installment of IMF cash, in 1980, about one-fifth of the originally scheduled sum. The entire program was officially suspended at the end of 1981.

Everyone in paid employment supports between 10 and 15 people outside his immediate family of children, parents, siblings'—20-30 people.

It is to be stressed that Zaire, a center of the raging AIDS pandemic, is not a country hit by so-called natural disasters like the terrible droughts affecting other parts of Africa. This country has a large territory, rich in natural resources; it could play a critical role in the agro-industrial development of the continent. The crisis in Zaire is *entirely* the product of willful oligarchist financial policies.

The IMF is guilty of willful mass murder by economic means in Zaire—a process of death which, having assumed the form of AIDS, is now striking everywhere.