

sweatshop-based foreign-exchange-earning policy, with its high cost of degradation of the human labor involved, including the threat of hunger and starvation. In order to get the ball rolling, Dhaka will have to buck the WTO and its diktats, and ignore the crocodile tears shed by the international promoters of the WTO, because of Bangladesh's burgeoning food crisis.

To begin with, on April 14, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned that a rapidly escalating global food crisis has reached emergency proportions and threatens to wipe out "seven years of progress in the fight against poverty." He called for short-term emergency measures in many regions to meet urgent food needs and avoid starvation, and for longer-term efforts to significantly increase production of food grains.

The rapidly escalating crisis of food availability around the world has reached "emergency proportions," Ban said. "The World Bank has estimated that the doubling of food prices over the last three years could push 100 million people in low income countries deeper into poverty."

Dismantle the WTO

A day before Ban's warning, World Bank President Robert Zoellick had appealed to governments to quickly provide the UN World Food Program with \$500 million in emergency aid by May 1. Zoellick also said that the international community has "to put our money where our mouth is," to deal with rapidly rising food prices that have caused hunger and deadly violence in several countries.

Dhaka, and other nations around the world, must realize that if Ban Ki-moon or Zoellick had really meant "to put our money where our mouth is," the first action they would take is to dismantle the WTO in its present form. Because they would not even dare to suggest such an anti-establishment action, their remarks are merely the shedding of crocodile tears. In other words, it would be wise to recognize that these tears are shed by a carnivore.

The WTO policy not only has forced nations to push sweatshops for foreign exchange instead of investment in food-security, but it has created the present situation where a starving nation cannot even find food in the world market to buy. As a result, the inadequate amount of existing food in the world market is now in the hands of the speculators, who are busy stuffing their pockets by starving millions.

The WTO is the single largest obstacle blocking nations from producing ample food for their citizens. It is responsible for the destruction of agriculture in many developing countries by ruling against government subsidies for "expensive" products. In short, the WTO is in the process of putting up food for worldwide auction—whoever can afford to buy it, should be the consumer.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was reincarnated as the WTO in 1995. GATT had stated flatly

in a 1984 document what the WTO powers—that-be still widely acknowledge, that "agriculture had become the most heavily protected and distorted sector in the world economy, with consequent substantial negative effects on international trade and particularly on those developing countries that are heavily reliant on agriculture for their economic development."

In essence, the WTO diktat states that producing food for millions of people in any country should be considered at par with making any widget or toy. By now, the authorities in Dhaka should realize that the survival of citizens and stability of any nation depend on easily available food to everyone. Food and physical security are the two bedrocks on which a nation is built. To keep a nation teetering on the verge of food insecurity, as the WTO demands, through its diktat for non-subsidized farming, is a recipe for disaster.

Gore Tells the Hungry, Let Them Eat Biofuels

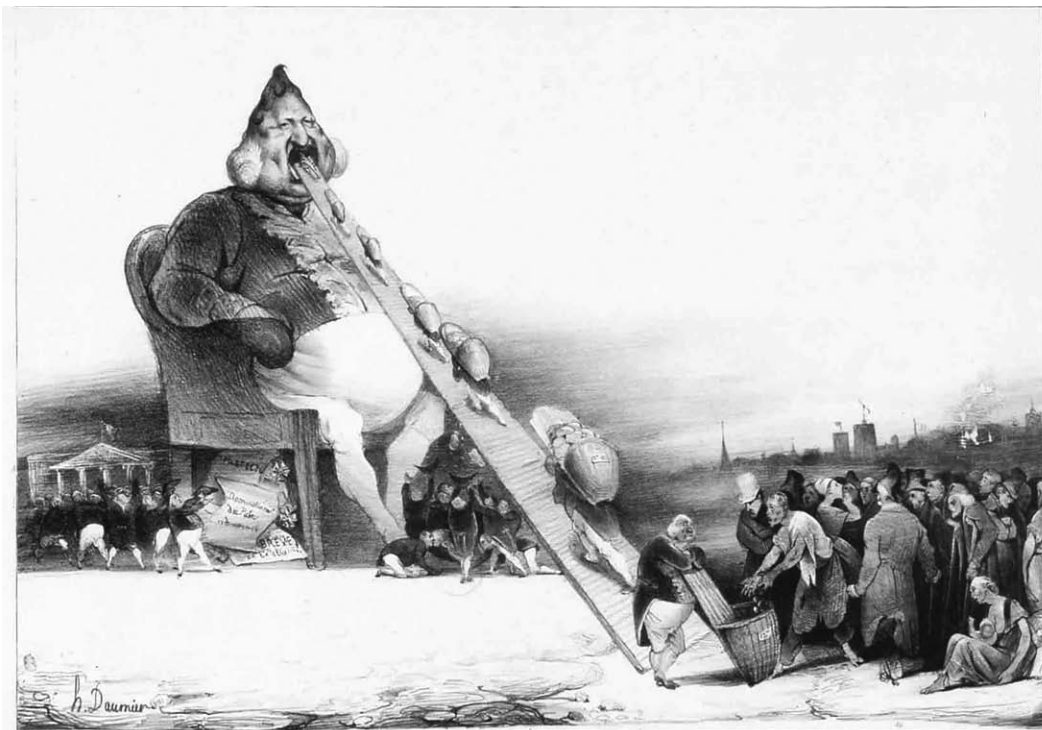
by Cynthia R. Rush

There is a backlash growing around the world against British agent Al Gore's fascist dictate to starving nations: "Let them eat biofuels." As U.S. statesman Lyndon LaRouche has said, the combination of starvation, food shortages, and hyperinflation have become the single most important issue in the world today.

The people of Central America and the Caribbean are enraged at rising food prices and scarcity, a situation that Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has termed "explosive." The Honduran government has just declared a national emergency to deal with the food crisis, and Guatemala is preparing to do the same. Tensions in Haiti, where food riots erupted recently, continue to run very high. At the just-concluded regional conference of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Brasilia, one delegate after another got up to denounce the idea that Brazilian President Lula da Silva is insanely defending: that biofuels represent the answer to underdevelopment, poverty, and unemployment.

Echoing statements made by former Cuban President Fidel Castro last year, that the push for biofuels is the "internationalization of genocide," Cuban representative José Arsenio Quintero angrily told the FAO delegates that "it is *ethically unacceptable*, that areas of food production be converted to energy production."

Bolivia's delegate called for an immediate suspension of any new biofuels projects in the region, while insisting that food security must be the top priority of all nations. Numerous delegates warned that the political stability of their nations



“Gore-gantua” demands that people give up eating, while he gets fatter by the day, swallowing up the profits from his hedge-fund and grain cartel operations. Here, Daumier’s cartoon of the French King Louis-Philippe, as Rabelais’ Gargantua.

was at risk, and urged that financial resources be made available immediately to assist them in producing more basic grains to guarantee their food supply.

Biofuels, by Any Other Name

It is against this backdrop of hunger, poverty, and intense human suffering that Gore and his speculator friends are demanding that nations give up eating, give up reproducing themselves, and prepare to die. This is what he means by “saving the planet.”

He likes to coyly pretend, that biofuels aren’t his thing. When he attended the First Biofuels Congress of the Americas in Buenos Aires, Argentina in May of 2007, he piously warned about the “dangers” of biofuels, urging his audience of financiers and agri-business magnates to exercise great caution in producing them, lest they endanger valuable forests unnecessarily and further harm the environment. If not pursued carefully, he intoned, biofuels could also drive food prices up.

This was just Al Gordo’s usual flatulence speaking. As far back as December 1998, at the Third Annual Farm Journal Conference, then-Vice President Gore stated, “The more we can make this home-grown fuel [ethanol] a successful, widely used product, the better off our farmers and our government will be.”

Today, Jello-Head is in league with a network of hedge-fund managers, speculators, international grain cartels, and other species of financial predators who, like Gore, share the British financier oligarchy’s Malthusian worldview. Among them are mega-speculator George Soros, who’s pouring bil-

ions of dollars into Brazilian ethanol, and Royal Dutch Shell, which sponsored an April 15 conference on “Global Energy Challenges: Implications for the Americas,” on the potential for biofuel development in the Western Hemisphere.

This is the same crowd that fueled the growth of the global speculative derivatives bubble, and now that it’s evaporating, has focussed their greed on the international biofuels racket, to create an equally unstable biofuels bubble. No one should be fooled into thinking that what these vultures propose has anything remotely to do with a real concept of physical economy.

The rant that Fat Al gave at the 2007 Buenos Aires conference, when he said that population growth and economic development had “spoiled” nature in some South American countries, was music to the financiers’ ears. Reflecting the same racism he shows toward Africa, Gore cited the case of Bolivia, next to Haiti the poorest country in the hemisphere, with a largely indigenous population, as an example of “too much” development!

This is why he keeps getting regular invitations to be the star speaker at international biofuels conferences, such as the March 2007 World Biofuels Markets Congress in Brussels, the May 11, 2007 First Biofuels Congress of the Americas in Buenos Aires, and the conference in Santiago, Chile the same day, entitled “Global Warming and Climate Change: The Time To Act Is Now.” His own hedge fund, the London-based Generation Investment Management, has had no qualms about investing in one of Spain’s major biofuels companies, Abengoa.

Nazi Bedfellows

In Ibero-America, Gore's alliances tell a particularly sordid tale. On two occasions in 2007, he teamed up with banking and political interests linked to the Bush family, and to the late Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet, both to espouse his global warming fraud, and provide a platform for the financiers who are wittingly using biofuels and "defense of the environment" to impose the plantation and slave-labor economy their City of London masters demand.

Take the case of the Santiago, Chile conference. Gore's invitation to speak there came from multi-billionaire magnate Sebastián Piñera, the failed 2005 Presidential candidate, and the driving force behind the creation, in Chile, of the National Committee of Support for Al Gore's Candidacy for the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. Sebastián, who with affiliated companies, paid a whopping \$200,000 to bring Gore to Chile, is the brother of fascist José Piñera, Pinochet's former Labor Minister, who, in 1981, privatized Chile's once excellent state-run social security system.

Sebastián Piñera poses as a touchy-feely humanist and environmentalist. But he owes his fortune and existence to the brutal free-market regime that Pinochet's University of Chicago-trained economists imposed on the country, after George Shultz and fascist banker Felix Rohatyn helped overthrow Salvador Allende in the bloody September 1973 coup.

The other sponsor of the conference was the right-wing daily *El Mercurio*, whose owners, the Edwards family, have served the British Empire dating back to the 19th Century. In 1973, editor Agustín Edwards was a leading organizer of the Pinochet coup.

Given these facts, LaRouche asked at the time, whether Gore weren't travelling to Chile to help Piñera overthrow President Michelle Bachelet. Piñera was leading a vicious campaign to force Bachelet out of office, putting himself forward as the man who could save Chile from the "chaos" he said she had created. What he meant by that, was that Bachelet's efforts—albeit timid ones—to move Chile away from the brutal economic model imposed by Pinochet's "Chicago Boys," and still largely intact today, would not be tolerated.

As LaRouche observed on April 9, 2007, "We have not yet gotten to the bottom of the Nazi connection behind the late dictator Pinochet from Chile. The Nazi is dead but Nazism is not. And we see this in the attacks coming from various quarters on President Bachelet, which are obviously coming from the undead fascists of the Nazi tradition of the late dictator Pinochet."

Bush's Gore

After his appearance in Santiago in May 2007, Gore flew to Buenos Aires, where he jumped into bed with the Inter-American Ethanol Commission (IEC), the entity founded in 2006 by former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, and the major

sponsor of the First Biofuels Congress of the Americas. The IEC is at the center of many of the ethanol ventures now being promoted around Ibero-America. An ardent defender himself of free trade, Gore embraces Jeb Bush's notion of using multinational ethanol deals to "energize" the debate on hemispheric free trade.

No matter that that debate is effectively dead. It makes a good talking point for the IEC, which argues that the continental "integration"—that is, elimination of sovereignty—that might have been achieved through the Bush Administration's failed Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), is now possible through ethanol! The IEC is a key driver behind the newly launched "Bioenergy Alliance," whose members reportedly include "the leading ethanol producers of the Americas."

This apparatus, with heavy Brazilian input, is now embarking on a major biofuels offensive in Central America and the Caribbean, whose populations are starving. Thinking themselves very clever, these killers plan to use this impoverished region as the base from which to significantly increase, and then export, biofuels to the United States, to get around the United States' 54-cent-a-gallon tax on Brazilian ethanol. If exported to the U.S. from a nation such as Guatemala, which is particularly targeted, ethanol can enter the U.S. tariff-free, because of Guatemala's participation in the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI).

The Brazilian involvement with IEC and the Bush-Gore lovefest, is—tragically—lawful. In the speech he gave April 16 before the FAO conference in Brasilia, President Lula da Silva vowed that, despite world starvation, he intends to act as a spokesman for the British Empire's genocidal biofuels drive. He had the nerve to lie that "more people are eating better" in the world than ever before.

LaRouche responded that it is clinically insane for Lula to make this assertion, and warned that the Brazilian President could find himself in mortal danger from his own policy, if he continues to put himself forward as the British Empire's agent on this matter.

In his address, Lula insisted there is no relationship between biofuels production and food scarcity or high prices. Repeating the British free-trade mantra, he instead blamed today's food crisis on "distortions" in the market, protectionism and farm subsidies in the advanced sector, and high oil prices. His solution? Expand free trade by ramming through the Doha Round of the World Trade Organization (WTO)—whose free-trade policies created the crisis in the first place.

UN Special Reporter Jean Ziegler called biofuels a "crime against humanity." Lula insanely described them as an instrument of "social and economic transformation" in poor countries, generating jobs and income. "This is a project in which I deposit great hope," he said, especially for the future of poor African, Asian, Central American, and Caribbean nations.