

Third World starvation linked to debt

The North-South dialogue that has emerged in recent years is an effort by the underdeveloped nations to gain a larger share of the world's wealth controlled by the developed nations. The "North" is identified with the former colonizing countries that are now neo-colonizing and imperialist and the "South" is symbolic of the nations of Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

The world is in an economic crisis with the economies of the developed capitalist countries in stagnation. Their growth rate was one percent in 1980, continuing a downward scale. In 1980, the inflation rate of the nations in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development was 13.9 per cent. Unemployment has become a mass phenomenon, with over five per cent of the workforce totally unemployed. In the US over eight million persons cannot find work.

The repercussions of these economic ills are magnified in most underdeveloped nations.

By contrast, the transnational monopolies keep increasing their dividends and achieving added financial accumulations. During 1970-1978, the total flow of the monopolies' direct investments in underdeveloped countries was \$42.2 billion. During the same period they withdrew \$100.2 billion in profits. For every new dollar invested, an average profit of \$2.4 was withdrawn.

During the same period US investments in the Third World were \$8.7 billion, and \$39.7 billion were repatriated as profits. This is an average \$4.5 dollar income into the US for every dollar invested in the underdeveloped nations. About 40 per cent of the total corporate profits went to the US.

Transnationals also exert impressive control over trade in commodities. They market 50-60 per cent of sugar and phosphates; 70-80 per cent of tin; 85-90 per cent of cocoa, tea, coffee, tobacco, wheat, cotton, jute, timber and copper; 90-95 per cent of iron ore and bauxite. Marketing these products puts millions into the coffers of the multinationals but decapitalizes underdeveloped countries even more.

The intensification of the concentration, centralization and internationalization of transnational capital in the past twenty years has strengthened the fusion of the great monopolies with the state apparatus of the developed countries and the general policy of those countries is generally formulated on the basis of the monopolies' interests.

The low prices set by the monopolies for commodities from the underdeveloped nations deepens the unequal trade ratios and causes

indebtedness, while the prices of goods sold to them cause inflation. Credit is given for the purpose of making profit and is based on political considerations, so denies technical development that the nations need and want. High tariffs and quotas discriminate against Third World industrial products.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund extract agreements that force underdeveloped nations to deny even the basic necessities to their own people in order to repay debts or to gain new loans.

The foreign debt of the underdeveloped nations exceeds \$500 billion. The public debt of the underdeveloped countries grew at an average rate of 21 per cent during the 1970s. For debt servicing alone, these countries paid \$44 million in 1979. In the meantime their people suffer hunger and illness and are in need of housing, schools and factories.

The world population is 4.4 billion, 75 percent of whom live in underdeveloped nations. The developed nations, with 25 per cent of the people, enjoy 83 per cent of the world's gross national product, consume 75 per cent of the energy, own 92 per cent of the world industry and 95 per cent of the technological resources, and they use 89 per cent of the money used on education.

Between 400 and 500 million people suffer from hunger in underdeveloped countries. Twenty-five per cent of the world population lives in poor, overcrowded and dangerous conditions. Of the 122 million babies born, 10 per cent die before they are a year old and an additional 4 per cent die before age 5. Each year 18 million children under 5 die and 95 percent of those who die live in the Third World. While in the developed countries one out of 40 die before adolescence. This proportion is one in four in African countries.

By the end of this century the world population will be 6.5 billion, of which 80 percent will live in the current underdeveloped nations.

The Association of Third World Economists made the following recommendations to address these inequities:

- the complete sovereignty of the peoples of the Third World over their natural resources and wealth;
- implementation of a New International Economic Order
- thoroughgoing structural changes within Third World nations to secure effective management, participation in and control by the people of economic and social development.



African children face starvation and misery.

- agrarian reform that includes modern agricultural methods and ends exploitation of the peasants

- industrialization based on national resources and genuine foreign cooperation
- education of all people
- development of new health systems
- improvement of opportunities for the people to exercise democracy and gain political benefits
- secure equal rights for women

The Third World debt of over \$400 billion costs millions every year just to pay interest, without reducing the debt. This system also prevents the lending institutions from recovering their money and causes a continual crisis in the economies of the developed nations.

The Third World Economists asked that \$400 billion be provided the underdeveloped nations by 1990, in the form of donations and long-term, low income soft credits. This money would be used for investments in the nation's economics according to their own decisions. This would strengthen the Third World economies and indirectly alleviate the permanent crisis of the developed nations.

This year world war expenditures

will amount to over \$500 billion. Production from war not only brings high profits for its benefactors, but involves millions of the world's best technicians and skilled workers in work that adds nothing to the wellbeing of the public.

The Third World Economists demanded a halt to the arms race and that those billions be used for peace and development.

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Cell Talk

By Asmar Abdul Seifullah
Aka Joe West # 40404

When people who have never been confined think of Oregon State Penitentiary, its walls, its bars and the men locked inside, they wonder how they do the time -- cope with loneliness, tolerate the jailers, the lack of movement, the unchanging routine, the succession of sunrises and sundowns entombed in prison darkness. Clearly the question has no concrete answer. There simply isn't a manual handed out on how to do time. Many men sentenced to the joint never get out. They don't cope, adjust or survive the contest with the calendar. They die in degrees. Their cheeks hollow as the mask of death imprints itself - their eyes don't twinkle or smile -- they become members of the lost, they are the living dead!

For the sake of balance we won't dwell on the lost. There are men who come to prison and buck the odds and win. They enter Oregon State Penitentiary without fanfare or jive talk and proceed with the business of winning their freedom. Self pity or the loss of what could have been doesn't deter them from the dream. Some of them are what hard cons call oddballs. Oddballs are accidents. They are people who have gone their entire lives without crossing the path of the law. Their crimes are usually crimes of passion or they drank too much one night and ran over someone. They shouldn't be in prison and the odds are they won't return.

The young and restless are the next group of prisoners considered. In this grouping there are few in-

dividuals able to make independent decisions about the future. They come into prison thinking that it's all fun and games and generally become victims of their own foolishness. They haven't lived long enough to learn the value of life and their youth usually wastes away behind bars. However, there are a small minority of these young and restless brothers who quickly realize that it is better cruising down the avenue than round and round the big yard track. They get their act together and are better men for the small amount of time they serve.

At this point stress is placed upon the fact that youthful offenders should not be sentenced to long prison terms. A long prison term can only further damage any chance for a juvenile or young adult to be rehabilitated. If you place a young man in prison -- especially an adult prison for a long period of time, it's guaranteed that he will come out worse rather than better. Youth should not be used as an excuse to commit crimes but it should be considered in the sentencing process. Unless there is a loss of life or a particularly heinous crime committed - youthful offenders should be sentenced under a special act. The federal government has a youth act and the California system as a youth authority it uses for youthful offenders. Oregon must at some point implement legislation that would allow youthful offenders to be sentenced under special guidelines.

Next we come to the men who have made crime a career. They come from all walks of life; rich and

poor - Black and white. At some point in their life they measured the odds and decided to play the long shot every time out. These men are social misfits for one reason or another. They were spawned in neon rivers with cocaine banks and heroin currents. They spend more time inside than they do outside. They are the hard core - the mack men for sissy boys - the undertaker for damn fools. There appears to be little hope of reform for the hard con. But as we gaze upon the bleak circumstances of the hard con, we must understand that every river runs its course -- sooner or later the years behind bars take their toll. The plastic excuses of failure and confinement at 35 or 40 is a hellish realization to face. Few of these men are able to face that realization but those that do find that life isn't over until the last bell rings. They find that life -- the world isn't as hard or cold as they thought it was and they find that the greatest prison of all is the prison people built around their dreams.

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From the Front Door

By Tom Boothe

From the Front Door, I can see a need for more educational, consultation and informational sharing forums to be made available to our citizens in North-East Portland. The House of Exodus as of June 2, 1981 will set aside time each Tuesday evening to share information on services and products located within the North/Northeast community. For those who do not wish to attend the Tuesday evening meetings, you may call Tom Boothe, at Contractors Management - 288-8469, or at American State Bank - 282-2216. I will be available five days a week Monday through Friday. This informational service is absolutely free, there are no charges for this service to citizens within the Portland Metropolitan area.

During this summer, I will be giving a series of talks on Community services, starting Tuesday June 2, 1981 through September 30, 1981. These talks will be made a part of our Tuesday evening forum; this is at the request of citizens who live in the Black community, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to share information with our community citizens.

I would like to say at this time, to those who have spoken with me in a thankful manner regarding my article in support of the Black Educational Center. Ok, talk is fine, but don't forget to mail the Center a check, give up some dollars to the Center. Whether its our community, our Churches, our businesses and most of all let's support our youth and senior citizens. Self respect is the first sign of a person's or a community's worth or value. Let's practice Self Respect this Summer. To quote George Page's sign off statement, "BACK WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN."