

The Ecologist

July/August 1994

CAMPAIGNS

For Richer, Not For Poorer

NEW WORLD BANK projects in Brazil show that its rhetoric of "poverty alleviation and environmental protection" has not altered its real agenda of corporate subsidy and political interference.

Ten years ago the World Bank lent Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD) \$300 million for the notorious Grande Carajás iron ore mining, smelting and transport scheme in Western Brazil on condition that it demarcate indigenous peoples' lands in the area. Although this has not been done, the Bank is this year lending another \$50 million to CVRD.

Opposing the new loan, Survival International says "destruction of the unique pre-Amazon forest of Maranhão, inhabited by indigenous peoples, continues unabated. Since the early 1980s an estimated 2,355 square miles of forest have been cut down annually for conversion into charcoal to feed the pig iron smelters. Land invasion and speculation by colonists, ranchers and loggers in the sphere of the Greater Carajás Project are increasing".

Also in Brazil, the Bank has just agreed to lend \$220 million for a road through Maranhão, Tocantins and Piauí States. This will assist CVRD and other companies to farm more soya beans for export, increasing pesticide pollution in rivers and displacing savannah inhabitants over

a wide area. The Bank complains that "the poor conditions of the roads... remain an important deterrent to more intensive private investment in agriculture". The World Bank Staff Appraisal for the road project estimates that five million hectares could be put over to soya.



The Bank's *World Development Report*, which focuses this year on infrastructure, says that "more accessible and less costly infrastructure services are essential to more effective poverty reduction". Critics respond that the Bank's support for the commercialization and privatization of services such as Brazil's railways puts them out of the poor's reach.

Walter Hook of the Institute of Transport and Development Policy (ITDP) points out that "a large percentage of the world's population is too poor to be able to afford proper infrastructure provided at market cost." He describes as "absurd" the Report's claims that increasing "user fees" on electric power, rail and water will generate revenue that can improve access to water for one billion people.

In transport the Bank discriminates against non-car owners. Bank measures in Poland caused local bus fares to increase 61 per cent. A Bank-funded traffic plan for Shanghai recommended closing major roads to non-motorized transport.

The World Bank's support for infrastructure that only benefits rich people and politicians has been confirmed by reports that it is funding a bridge in the submergence area of the bitterly resisted Sardar Sarovar/Narmada dam in India.

FOR CARAJAS, contact: Fiona Watson, Survival International, 310 Edgeware Road, London W2.

FOR A CRITIQUE of the World Bank's assessment of transport projects, "Counting On Cars, Counting Out People", send \$6 to: ITDP, 611 Broadway, Rm. 616, New York NY 10012, USA.

World Bank Fifty Years Campaign Grows

A CONCERTED campaign is spreading public awareness of the World Bank's role in hurting, not helping, the poor. In early July major protests started in many countries, and more will follow as the Bank continues its 50th anniversary celebrations.

In Madrid from 26 September to 1 October excellent speakers from around the world will address an Alternative Forum on the Bank. The following week will see large protests against the World Bank/IMF Annual General Meeting, starting with a march on 2 October. This will de-

mand that the Bank is not allowed to get away with fifty more years of deception and exploitation. There will also be street theatre and direct action protests.

CONTACT for the Alternative Forum: Aedenat, Campomanes 13-28013, Madrid, SPAIN, Fax: +34 1 571 71 08, Tel: +34 1 559 03 34, E-mail: fa94@nodo50.gn.apc.org

Travel to the Forum from the UK is being arranged by: Third World First, 217 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ, Tel: 0865 245678.

OTHER CONTACTS: 50 Years Is Enough US Coalition, 1025 Vermont Ave., NW Suite 300 Washington DC 20005, USA, Tel: +1 202 879 3186.

ASEED Europe, PO Box 92066, 1090 AB Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS, Tel: +31 20 668 2236.

INSIDE ●●●●●●●●●●

**TORTURE SCHOOL
US Funds "Dirty Wars"**

**FORESTRY AID
Indian Group Slams UK**

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Major Opposition Plans**

The Ecologist

CAMPAIGNS

This section highlights current campaigns, suggests how to support them and gives updates on feature articles. Send details of any campaigns to:

Alex Wilks, The Ecologist (Campaigns), Agriculture Hse, Bath Rd, Sturminster Newton, Dorset DT10, UK, E-mail: ecologist@gn.apc.org, Fax: 0258 473748, No copyright on Campaigns.

US Teaches Latin Murderers

THE US CONGRESS voted in May to continue funding for the School of the Americas (SOA) also known as the "School of Assassins" or "Academy of Torture" because it has trained many of Latin America's most notorious dictators and military officers.

For 40 days prior to the vote activists held a fast on the steps of Congress to demand a halt to US taxpayer support for the SOA. The protests were organized by School of the Americas Watch, founded in 1989 by Father Roy Bourgeois after 24 SOA-trained soldiers and officers were implicated in the murder of six Jesuit priests and two women helpers in San Salvador. Bourgeois has spent 34 months of the last five years in jail for his protests at the School in Fort Benning, Georgia.

SOA graduates include Manuel Noriega, ex-President of Panama, General Hector Gramajo, defence minister of Guatemala responsible for the genocidal military policies of the 1980s, and Leopoldo Galtieri of Argentina.

The School has also trained members of death squads in Peru and Honduras and 47 of the 69 El Salvadoran officers cited in a 1993 UN Truth Commission report for involvement in atrocities. These included the assassination of three trade



union leaders in 1981 and the rape and murder of three US nuns and a lay-worker by five officers, three of whom were SOA graduates.

SOA Watch says the school teaches "dirty little war techniques" as part of "a strategy for maintaining influence south of our borders". SOA Chief of Staff Lt. Col. Bustone admits that his pupils "utilize their training in professionally established armed forces in accordance with Latin American national objectives that have been deemed by the departments of State and Defense to be in the national interests of the United States."

In response to criticism the School has added "human rights awareness training" to its syllabus as well as "nation-building" and "counter-narcotics", but as retired SOA teacher Major Joseph Blair pointed out, this terminology is a facade behind which the School can continue to teach soldiers "how to kill their own impoverished people". SOA Watch continues its campaign for the school to be closed.

WRITE TO: Your representative in the US, asking that the School of the Americas should not get more taxpayer funds. Address: US House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515, USA, or write to President Clinton, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington DC 20500, USA.

CONTACT: SOA Watch, POBox 3330, Columbus, GA 31903, USA, Tel/Fax: +1 (706) 682 0280.

Innu's H-Q Blockade Crushed

INNU INDIGENOUS people recently declared Hydro-Quebec's Sainte-Marguerite III (SM III) project "one dam too many" and set up a non-violent blockade on the access road to the dam site.

Innu from the Coalition for Nitassinan accuse the Quebec government of "complete disregard of their right to self-determination on their lands" and demand that it "rescinds the authorisation of the SM-III project" which was approved against an official committee's advice. The project would flood 450 square kilometres of Eastern Canada, and open the area to forestry and mining companies (See CAMPAIGNS, Feb/Mar 1994).

On June 13 the blockade was broken in a dawn raid by the state police. Twenty-four people were arrested during the blockade and its break-up; some may face up to 14 years in prison. Twelve per cent of adult Innus in Mani-Utenam have already been charged in Quebec Courts for their opposition to SM-III. More are likely to follow as the Innu continue their resistance, supported by activists from across Canada and the US.

WRITE TO: Jean Chretien, Prime Minister of Canada, Langevin Block, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa ON K1A 0A2, CANADA.

CONTACT: Native Forest Network, POB 57 Burlington, VT 05402, USA, Tel: +1 (802) 863 0571, E-mail: peacejustice@igc.apc.org.

Nuclear Review

THE BRITISH Government has announced a review of nuclear power. This was promised in 1989 when it became clear that nuclear power could not be privatised with the rest of the electricity industry. Submissions to the review must be made before the end of September.

The review is likely to put the case for expanding Britain's nuclear programme. To raise the capital to build more power stations Nuclear Electric wants at least partial privatization and the separation of the ageing Magnox power stations from the more modern plants. In other words, not content with its £1.1 billion a year subsidy until 1998, it is asking the public to continue shouldering the liability for the least economic power stations.

Private investors, who typically seek an 11 per cent return on their investment, compared with 5 per cent for state investment, may also demand that the government underwrite the uncertain costs of decommissioning and waste disposal. The issue of nuclear waste is not being examined by the review but by the Department of the Environment in a separate study.

The industry still has no good way to dispose of old reactors. Nuclear Electric's options for Trawsfynydd in Wales, shut down last year, include permanent burial under an artificial mountain of local quarry waste, partial entombment for 135 years, or expensive dismantling by robots, with nowhere to put the pieces.

To oppose the expansion of nuclear power, send comments to the review or get involved in the growing number of direct actions. There have recently been occupations or gate blockades at Sizewell B, Suffolk, Hinkley Point, Somerset, Dungeness, Kent, and Hunterston, near Glasgow and at the offices of Scottish Nuclear Fuels, as well as a mass camp at Sellafield in late June.

Sellafield itself shows that new plants are neither built for safety nor for employment. Acid leaks forced 50 workers to be evacuated from THORP earlier this year, and 2,000 job losses have been announced.

FOR THE REVIEW, write before 30 September to both Michael Morgan, Room 2.3.6., DTI, 1 Palace Street, London SW1E 5HE and Lynne Rogers, Room 6/42, Scottish Office Industry Dept., New St. Andrews House, Edinburgh EH1 3TA.

FOR ANTI-NUCLEAR direct actions and news, contact: No Nuclear Compromise, Tel: 0392 496 303, E-mail: empower@gn.apc.org.

Dam Resistance

UP TO 2,000 families are at imminent risk of being flooded out of their homes as the water rises behind the part-built Sardar Sarovar dam on the Narmada river, western India. Many people are still refusing to move in spite of the presence of thousands of police.

Several homes and a large area of land behind the dam were submerged when the monsoon began in mid-June. The occupants of five houses in the village of Manibeli had to be removed forcibly by police who have held the resisting villages in a state of siege since early May. Mass forced evictions could start any time.

People who have been intimidated into moving have been dumped at "resettlement sites" without land or shelter. A pregnant woman recently died of exhaustion after being made to walk 50 miles from her home village to a resettlement site with no medical facilities.

● A relay fast was held recently to protest against the threats to forests and tribals from the Pooyamkutty dam, Kerala.

WRITE, condemning the Narmada human rights abuses and asking that dam construction be stopped, to: Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, 7 Racecourse Road, New Delhi 110001, INDIA. Fax: +91 11 301 6857.

CONTACT: *The Ecologist* for campaigner details.

Argentine Timber

PLANS BY a British-based company to log rare *quebracho* trees in Argentina and replace them with eucalyptus have been strongly condemned by FUNAM, an Argentinian environmental group.

Australian Argentine Agriculture (AAA) plans to exploit 50,000 hectares of forests in Santiago del Estero Province to make parquet flooring and charcoal for sale mainly in Europe. AAA claims it will not be opposed by the "green lobby" because its "products will be from managed forests". FUNAM points out, however, that replacing indigenous forests with plantations would cause erosion, water loss and soil acidification, and demands better protection for Argentina's semi-arid forests.

WRITE TO: Dr Carlos S. Menem, President of Argentina, Balcarce 50, 1er Piso, (1064) Capital Federal, ARGENTINA.

CONTACT: FUNAM, Casilla de Correo 83, Correo Central (5000), Córdoba, ARGENTINA.

Indians Condemn UK "Joint Forestry"

A **BRITISH-FUNDED** forestry project in Karnataka, India which the British Aid Minister claims is a leading example of "the participative approach endorsed by Rio" has been condemned by a local organization, the Chipko-Appiko Andolan group (CAA). They say it would "destroy rich biodiversity and plant monocultures and commercially valuable trees".



The CAA says the Western Ghats Forestry Project, supposedly run as Joint Forest Planning and Management, is "once again nothing but growing trees for commercial purpose in the name of the people". Rather than participate in or benefit from the project, "tribals will be thrown out of the forests", as the forests will be zoned so that "the best areas are declared inaccessible and uninhabitable". Among the different forest-dwelling tribal groups who could be affected are the Siddhis, Gowlis and Halakki Vokkaligas.

Fifty-five per cent of the budget is for administration, ten per cent for consultants which the ODA insists must be British. The CAA comments, "There seems to

be no reason to bring in experts of alien culture when one has to interact with the local people, mostly tribal. There is no dearth of forest experts in our country."

Many other such forestry projects are being introduced into India by international agencies, notably the World Bank, UNDP and FAO. The World Bank is using Global Environment Facility funding as a way to persuade

bureaucrats and NGOs to follow Bank forest philosophy and become part of the process of taking over common lands with eucalyptus, teak and poplar plantations.

The Chipko-Appiko Andolan appeals that people in Karnataka "should not bend low to the pressures of ODA but should strive to evolve a joint management policy involving local people as carried out over several decades by the villagers of Halkar, Badamakanahalli and Hunsur."

WRITE TO: British MPs condemning the use of aid for this anti-people project.

CONTACT: Chipko-Appiko Andolan, Hulemalgi Bldg, Chowkimath, SIRSI 581401, Karnataka INDIA.

FOR DETAILS of forestry "aid" threats to India contact: B. Sahgal, 602 Maker Chambers V, Nariman Point, Bombay 400 021, INDIA.

Anger at Sri Lanka Farmers' Suicide

SIXTEEN SRI LANKAN farmers recently committed suicide by drinking insecticide in despair over rising debts and falling purchase prices. Hundreds of others are reported to have done likewise. In late April, 200,000 farmers protested against "this tragedy which is brought about by the multinationals in collaboration with government officials".

Samuni Samarakoon of the Peasant Information Centre in Ibbagamuwa said that World Bank-inspired reforms of the agricultural sector in 1989 are to blame for the suicides, with removal of fertilizer subsidies and privatization of the paddy marketing sector. The World Bank is now emphasizing the removal of tariff barriers and the promotion of export crops such as tobacco, melon, gherkin and oil palm so small farmers can no longer get a fair price for their food crops.

Many of the farmers who committed suicide were cultivating paddy on one to two acres of land in areas colonized by people displaced by the Mahaweli Dam, built with World Bank and British money.

Gallege Punyawardana, of the Swarna Hansa Foundation says officials "have constantly advocated new farming inputs" but that "all these guaranteed pesticides and weedicides have not helped farmers' cultivations". In response to the protests, the government has said it will reschedule all cultivational loan debts, but Swarna Hansa points out that the government has already cancelled six billion rupees in industrialists' debts and is demanding that the one billion rupees of farmers' cultivation debts are written off.

WRITE TO: Mr D. B. Wijetunga, President, Janadipathi, Mawatha, Colombo, SRI LANKA.

CONTACT: Swarna Hansa, PO Box 16, 9 Windsor Ave., Dehiwala, SRI LANKA.

Protest Clampdown Sparks Mass Action



THE CRIMINAL Justice Bill is likely to become UK law by late July. Opponents plan to defend the right of peaceful protest with a mass trespass of people prepared to get arrested.

The Bill is the most extensive attack on human rights in Britain since the 1940s. Its clauses criminalizing trespass will make most civil disobedience protests illegal (See *The Ecologist* Jan/Feb 1994). As civil rights group Liberty comments "the provisions can be applied to trade union pickets, environmental direct action against road schemes, local protests against hospital closures and many others".

Hundreds of protests which will be illegal by late summer have been recorded by the Forgive Us Our Trespasses campaign in the last few months. In one action, Operation Emily, women chained themselves to the railings of Parliament in memory of the suffragettes.

On 24 July there will be a large march against the Bill through the centre of London starting at 1.00pm in Hyde Park. There will also be protests on 25 and 26 July in London including "an enormous law-breaking mass-trespass" to challenge the law's implementation. Large numbers of people have already said they will not obey the new law and are prepared to be imprisoned if necessary.

TO OPPOSE the Bill, contact: Forgive Us Our Trespasses, 16 Sholebroke Ave., Chapelton, Leeds LS7 3HB. Tel: 0532 629 427.

Ecuador Privatization Onslaught

THE ECUADORIAN government has brutally suppressed a major uprising against a new law to privatize communal lands and water.

The Ley Agraria, passed in mid-June, overturns communal land and water rights and opens the way for major colonization of the Amazon. In response thousands protested in major cities and production was stopped at four oil wells. The Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities and other groups blocked junctions

on the Pan-American Highway arguing that "only by refusing to provide food to the cities will the government understand that doing away with small farmers will leave the country hungry".

The government gave the armed forces free reign to suppress the protests. Bombings and shootings killed at least ten people, injured 150 and closed down a number of radio stations for indigenous people.

WRITE, asking for the law to be repealed, to: Presidente Sixto Duran Ballen, Casa Presidencial, Quito, ECUADOR, Fax: +593 (2) 580 569.

Mount Apo Victory

FILIPINO organizations are celebrating the Ex-Im Bank of Japan's April announcement that it will not fund the Mt. Apo geothermal power project which is strongly opposed by local indigenous peoples (See CAMPAIGNS, Jan/Feb 1993).

This follows the previous refusal of the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the US ExIm Bank to lend money. Protests in the Philippines and abroad have made the Philippines' authorities less keen on the project, but US Companies Ormat, Oxbow and Union Oil of California are still interested in bidding for the contract.

CONTACT: PRC, 84 Long Lane, London, SE1, UK, or People Centred Development Forum, 14E 17th Street, Suite 5, New York, NY 10003, USA.

Tree Sitters Felled

PROTESTERS living in trees to stop them being bulldozed to make way for roads have recently been removed from three sites across England.

In one week in early June most of a treetop village was felled at Solsbury Hill near Bath, while protesters against the M65 extension in Lancashire and the M11, East London were brought down to earth after long vigils.

The private security companies which are now a feature of all major road schemes have become more violent recently, but protesters are regrouping to defend Britain's woodlands and communities.

TO GET INVOLVED in roads protests, contact: Roadalert, PO Box 371, Southampton SO9, HANTS, Tel: 0703 237 809. E-mail: roadalert@gn.apc.org

IN BRIEF

● HAWAII HOT SUCCESS

In a "major milestone for grassroots action in Hawaii", True Geothermal Energy Company announced its withdrawal from a geothermal drilling project in the Wao Kele O Puna rainforest on the Big Island. In 1985 this forest was illegally delisted from protected public land status and sold to Campbell Estate. Another developer may take True's place unless there is a strong public demand for repair of the geothermal prospecting damage, respect for native Hawaiian land rights and permanent protection of Wao Kele O Puna.

WRITE TO: Keith Ahue, Land and Natural Resources Dept., State of Hawaii, PO Box 621, Honolulu, HI 96809, USA.

CONTACT: RAN, 450 Sansome, Suite 700, San Francisco, CA 94111, USA.

● OIL WATCH FORMING

An international network is being formed against multinational oil companies with the intention that "the oil companies should be knocked from different fronts, by coordinated actions". Campaigners recently held a meeting in Ecuador to share information and plan together.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Oilwatch, c/o Accion Ecologica, Campagna Amazona por la vida, Casilla 17-15-246-C, Tel: +593 2 526 994, E-mail: aeconaie@acecol.ecx.ec.

● SCOTS LAND SELL OFF

Glen Feshie, a 16,800 ha estate in the Scottish Highlands, is being sold on the international property market over the appeals of campaigners that it should be made into a National Park as it contains Caledonian Pine Forest, golden eagles and many other rare species. In Scotland, however, there are no National Parks because of the strong landowning lobby. 4000 individuals own 80% of all private land.

CONTACT: Reforesting Scotland, 11 Springvalley Gardens, Edinburgh EH10 4QF.

● MAHOGANY STOLEN

In June, campaigners "ethically shoplifted" mahogany items from shops in six UK towns and deposited them at the Attorney General's London offices, asking him to prosecute the shops for dealing in goods stolen from indigenous people in Brazil. The Attorney General and Crown Prosecution Service now say it is for police to investigate the sources of mahogany.

CONTACT: CRISP, c/o 48 Bethel Street, Norwich NR2 1RD. Tel: 0603 631 007.