

Minister C. Subramaniam called on developed and oil-rich nations to allocate substantial quantities of their food, energy and fertiliser to promote agricultural "development" in the third world. Such international action must be decided on at the World Food Conference, Subramaniam warned, "before we are overtaken by hunger and suffering of unprecedented dimensions."

Reports that three million starving agricultural laborers in Orissa have been herded into food-for-relief work programs reveal the kind of "development" intended. Displaced by drought which was aggravated by the collapse of the Indian irrigation system, these farm laborers are working at breaking rocks and paving roads to earn their daily ration. In Rajasthan, thousands are being relocated to slave on the World Bank-funded Rajasthan Canal and Mahi Project. The World Bank has offered to provide India an additional \$600 million for similar labor-intensive projects, posing the clear-cut choice: starvation or slave labor.

AUSTRALIA: PHONY FUEL SHORTAGE THREATENS HARVEST

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Oct. 4 (IPS)--While Australian grain farmers are bankrupted by government policies, Labour Prime Minister Whitlam delivered a speech at the United Nations last week advocating a "world food reserve" to share the contrived "shortage": "As a major food producer, Australia is particularly interested in the proposals on food which President Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger have made at this session....An international system of grain reserves are thoroughly commendable and deserve our most serious attention."

In Australia, farmers report the hard wheat harvest is in jeopardy due to a shortage of fuel for harvesting combines. The fuel shortage worsened just as harvesting began, despite the fact that the Australian government reportedly reserved more oil for domestic use this year.

In a recent decision by the Australian Wheat Board, farmers will receive only one-quarter of the receipts from wheat sales, with the rest to be paid in two to four years. Farmers unable to meet mounting production costs will be forced to abandon wheat production. The effects of this sabotage are not confined to Australia: Australia is one of the world's few net exporters of wheat, coming third after the U.S. and Canada.

Australia's total net farm income is estimated to have declined 50 per cent since 1973. Farmers' rage has so far been diverted into proto-fascist formations like the "United Action Group," which blames the farm disaster on "labor anarchy" and communists.