

# Business Briefs

## **Malthusianism**

### **Venezuelan newspaper carries IMF revelations**

*La Nación*, the leading newspaper of San Cristóbal, capital of Tachira state, Venezuela, has run a full-page spread based on an *EIR* news release, under the headline, "The IMF Has Caused the Death of Millions of Persons of the Third World."

The release is drawn from the lengthy letter of resignation of Davison Budhoo to the International Monetary Fund. Budhoo, a senior aide with the IMF for many years and the Fund's representative in several countries, revealed that its policy was to systematically destroy the economies subjected to its diktat, the loan "conditionalities" policy, as a matter of "population control"—i.e., a policy of genocide toward the Third World.

From his own experience, he detailed how the IMF faked its data on the economy of Trinidad and Tobago to support genocidal policy prescriptions.

*La Nación* also carried Budhoo's report on the personal anguish he went through before he finally decided to follow his conscience and resign from his \$145,000 a year job.

This is the most prominent coverage of Budhoo's charges against the IMF to appear in print outside of the U.S. newspaper *New Federalist* and *EIR* (see Vol. 16, No. 5, Jan. 27, 1989, for extended excerpts from Budhoo's letter of resignation).

## **Europe 1992**

### **EC approves trade talks with Poland**

The European Commission, executive body of the 12-national European Community, has approved talks on trade with Poland and Bulgaria.

Diplomats said the accords with the two nations, to be negotiated by the EC's executive commission, would be less far-reach-

ing than a pact signed with Hungary in December, but would go further than an agreement with Czechoslovakia to boost trade in industrial goods.

The EC also announced that it has approved the ambassadors to EC Brussels headquarters designated by the Soviet Union and East Germany.

Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernández Ordóñez said that EC ministers would be considering giving the Brussels commission a mandate for negotiations with the Soviet Union and East Germany very soon.

In other developments, the EC and Japan agreed on Feb. 20 to pool information on nuclear fusion research, the first bilateral accord by Brussels and Tokyo in the scientific field. The three-year accord will involve the exchange of fusion research scientists. Japan has been pressing for the link in recognition of the EC's leadership in this field, said a report in London's *Financial Times*.

## **Energy**

### **Scientists say fusion budget 'not credible'**

Scientists reacted strongly against the Bush administration's proposed fusion energy research budget in hearings Feb. 21 before the energy subcommittee of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

The hearings were dominated by concern over the administration's latest moves against fusion power development: first, to put the emphasis on "understanding the physics of plasma confinement" instead of engineering, and second, to cut down to nothing the budget request for the first new fusion device in many years, the Compact Ignition Torus (CIT).

Last year's Five Year Plan called for \$31 million for the CIT in FY 1990; the administration has reduced that figure to only \$5 million.

Stephen Dean, president of Fusion Power Associates, took direct aim at the administration. "You can do physics around the clock for 20 years and you still won't have

fusion," he said. He referred back to the spirit of the Magnetic Fusion Engineering Act of 1980 to remind his audience of how far the country has strayed from a serious effort. "It is absurd to sit here arguing about \$5 million for the CIT. CIT is a \$400 million project, and it's much smaller than what we should be doing. We could spend \$100 million more per year profitably."

Dean also attacked cuts in the Advanced Toroidal Facility at Oak Ridge; at Los Alamos National Laboratory, and in Princeton's TFTR.

Other scientists confirmed most of Dean's testimony, under questioning from subcommittee members. Harold Furth of Princeton, for example, made the point that in the fusion program, historically, technology has led, not physical understanding. "If you take a position that you've got to understand and predict everything beforehand, you won't make any progress."

## **Third World Debt**

### **Philippines Senate overrides veto**

The Philippines Senate has voted to override President Corazon Aquino's veto of a bill creating a joint legislative and executive commission to monitor negotiations with foreign creditors. Government officials said the Senate's action might deter creditor banks from making new loans.

Mrs. Aquino vetoed the Senate bill in mid-February, saying it would impinge on her powers to contract and guarantee foreign loans, according to a report in the *Asian Wall Street Journal* Feb. 21.

The Philippines is seeking to reschedule a \$2.4 billion loan with the Club of Paris, the cartel of foreign government creditors. Philippines officials and the International Monetary Fund are holding talks on a \$1.3 billion loan package.

While Aquino and her cabinet have pledged to cooperate with IMF prescriptions very damaging to the nation's economic health in return for such loans, Filipino lawmakers have shown themselves to be much

more inclined to demand debt relief and even a moratorium.

## AIDS

### Doctor calls for testing of surgeons

The public should demand that surgeons be tested for AIDS regularly, says Dr. Lorraine Day, chief orthopedic surgeon at San Francisco General Hospital. Day spoke at the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco Feb. 21.

She said that surgeons face high risk of contracting the deadly AIDS virus in the operating room, in turn putting surgical patients in danger. She said other surgical patients in danger. She that she herself gets tested every six months.

Dr. Day said that she is concerned that tiny particles of the virus can circulate in the air of the operating room as suspended particles in the spray and aerosols generated by operating room power equipment.

Her lecture was interrupted by members of "ACT UP," the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, who shouted, "Stop AIDS phobia! Quarantine Lorraine Day!"

## East-West

### Satellite computer link with Russians

A satellite link has been set up connecting U.S. and Soviet computers directly for the first time. A group of entrepreneurs, in a joint venture with the Soviets, established the two-way satellite connection in January.

Scientists are already happily making use of the computer link-up, but some fear that it poses a threat to the national security.

David Leith, a high-energy physicist at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, is using the link to exchange messages and data with physicists in Novosibirsk (Siberia) who are conducting joint scientific experiments with U.S. scientists.

Researchers at the Space Studies Insti-

tute at Princeton are using the computer link to discuss joint Soviet-U.S. space missions with researchers at the Moscow Aviation Institute. There is also a computer link between the United States Academy of Sciences and its Soviet counterpart.

The link was the result of a proposal made by John Draper, an Alameda, California computer programmer, after he returned from a visit to the Soviet Union.

But others are expressing fear of the danger of espionage. "My concern is that these folks are exceeding their authority as private citizens," said Will Bralick, a computer scientist at the Air Force Institute of Technology. "Given the open communication channel between hackers, who knows what these people are getting."

## Agriculture

### Bad weather poses threat in Mideast

Three months of extremely bad weather has severely hit the agricultural output of the Middle Eastern countries.

In the space of a few days in mid-February, 50% of the tomato production in Israel was wiped out by frost. In the Negev region, the production of tomatoes, mangos, and avocados was wiped out. The same occurred in Jordan.

The weather disaster is occurring at a time when Israel's agriculture has been collapsing for financial reasons. By the end of January, there were three spectacular cases of suicide by Israeli farmers who were part of the cooperative (*moshav*) system. The farmers were unable to handle their debt burdens. In one cooperative, of 67 chicken farms that existed in 1987, only 22 remained at the beginning of 1989.

The kibbutz system is even more debt-ridden than the individual farmers of the *moshav*.

To make matters worse, there are now predictions that by spring, the entire Middle East could be as affected as Africa is by the locust plague. Locusts have reached Saudi Arabia and southern Iran, and some have even traveled as far as Istanbul, Turkey.

# Briefly

● **NEW YORK CITY'S** comptroller has threatened to sell the city pension fund's \$7.6 million stake in Chemical Bank. While this represents only 0.37% of Chemical shares outstanding, the city pension fund is a very large institutional investor with influence over other institutional investors. The reason given by the comptroller's office is that Chemical has supplied a credit line to the South Africa-linked Minorco for its hostile takeover of Consolidated Gold Fields.

● **A TAIWAN** company is prepared to make "Made in U.S.A." labels and export them to the United States. Ming Teh Flag Co. has suggested that American companies buy foreign-made "Made in USA" labels to replace "Made in Taiwan" labels. In a proposal to the U.S. Congress, Ming Teh said, "We suggest you cut off this label after you receive the goods and spend very little cost to mark on the flags your own brand name and 'Made in USA' signs. We can offer the labels, too."

● **FIDEL CASTRO** is apparently trying to return Cuba to its pre-1959 "roots" under Batista, when it was the playground of organized crime and the idle rich. Desperate for foreign exchange, Castro is now seeking to attract Western tourists' dollars as the top "development" priority.

● **FOOD RIOTS** are under way in Guyana, according to former Foreign Minister Fred Wills, who now resides in the United States. A general strike is set for late February, he said. Food, when available, is going for astronomical sums: A single egg is \$5! Wills's sources report the situation to be so bad that starving adults have been seen grabbing food out of the mouths of children.

● **THE WATER** resources of the Jordan River basin, feeding into Israel, Lebanon, and Syria, may be depleted by the year 2000, according to a report in the Feb. 22 *Financial Times* of London.