

uses a bizarre argument, indicative of the present mental state of leading Socialist International circles: "There are estimates that a fifth of all species on Earth is threatened to disappear in the next 20 years. . . . Therefore one of the great challenges for the 1990s must be to recreate (sic) a rich and living flora and fauna; a new (sic) richness of species in both north and south." With such a world there can, of course, be no higher priorities than following Hellstroem's global ecological agenda.

Everything else, such as eliminating starvation and hunger from the world or giving every family a home of their own, has to be far down the list of priorities. In reality, of course, the opposite is the case; only with a high living standard can you afford to take good care of nature. But then you have to first dissolve the International Monetary Fund and World Bank financial dictatorship over the developing sector, something which is not on the Socialist International agenda.

#### Four paradigm shifts

To stress the need of putting this green fascist agenda foremost, Mats Hellstroem refers to an argument by Thomas Meyer of the West German socialist SPD party. He praises Meyer, who works "with the West German new party program and the very interesting dialogue that the SPD now has with a number of communist parties in Eastern Europe," around a new paradigm shift for the SI. Meyer has identified four "paradigm shifts" that the SI has gone through during its existence. The first was in the 1860s and 1870s when the fight between the anarchists, who said that no social change was possible without totally new alternative institutions being established, and the Marxists, who believed you could change society working through the old institutions. The second paradigm shift came during 1880s and 1890s, when the revisionists came on the scene explaining that socialism is "a process" which can start long before the breakdown of the old society, which the other Marxists, thinking of socialism as "a structure," didn't believe. The third paradigm shift was when the SI decided that it was necessary to develop socialism through democratic means.

The fourth shift, however, didn't come until the 1970s, when the threats against our survival led "to a breakdown of the consensus about the benefits of economic growth" among the Northern and Middle European parties. "Environmental questions, the danger of mass extinction through nuclear weapons, the disturbance of the ecological equilibrium caused by unrestrained growth and irresponsible energy consumption" are named as the causes for the shift. But as Hellstroem notes, "In Southern Europe and in the countries bordering on the developing countries, the earlier optimism around the general economic modernization projects is still alive."

With a farmer's revolt, fueled by recent "environmental protection" legislation, boiling under his own feet, and a popular uprising against the last austerity package proposed

## Amazon nations reject foreign interference

On March 7, the eight member nations of the Amazon Pact met to offer their backing to Brazil in its fight to defend national sovereignty against efforts to "internationalize the Amazon" in the name of environmentalism. In this first summit, held in the Amazon city of Manaus, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, and Surinam issued a document proclaiming, "Pressure exerted on any one member forces all of us to act jointly and in sympathy. . . . The nations reject any foreign interference over member countries' actions or policies in Amazonia."

The document urged the industrialized nations to provide money for the preservation of the rain forest and for the economic development of the region, but *with no strings attached*. International attention to the Amazon problem, said the document, should be converted into "measures of cooperation on the financial and technical levels," but "attempts to impose conditionalities on the granting of resources" were denounced as unacceptable. In particular, Brazil condemned "debt-for-nature" swaps, whereby part of the foreign debt is forgiven in exchange for a pledge to protect a specified area of ecological interest. The declaration stressed that "the debt cannot be paid under current conditions and circumstances."

Also noteworthy was the accusation, from the Presidents of Colombia and Peru, that much of the destruction of the rain forest was due to the cultivation of illegal drugs, which they blamed on the demand coming from the advanced sector. Millions of hectares of virgin Amazon forest have been burned to cultivate coca and marijuana plants, with devastating effects on the ecology. Said Colombian President Virgilio Barco, "The drug trade is a silent threat against Amazonia, which comes from the First World."

by the government in which he is agriculture minister, Hellstroem could soon have to realize that such an "optimism" concerning economic growth is still alive, even in his own population. Ironically, the new prophet of global "ecological peace and serenity," Hellstroem, as minister of foreign trade under Palme's government, was implicated in the vast illegal arms trade from Swedish companies to Iran and other countries forbidden under Swedish law. Some Swedish observers report Hellstroem was quietly shifted to the agriculture post in the furor over the post-1986 Iran arms revelations.