

going on that would be depleting ozone during a certain part of the year and then replenishing at a certain other part. When the proponents of the ozone depletion theory are confronted with Dobson's discovery, they quickly turn around and say, "Well, the levels of ozone concentrations that Dobson was measuring went down only as low as 250, 220 or 230 Dobson units." That's true: The concentrations are going much lower now, and they're going about 100-150 Dobson units lower today than they did in 1957. However, two French scientists looked at the old ozone data from the French Antarctic station at Dumont Dorvel. The data had been published, but nobody had looked again. They got data from 1958, and what they discovered is that the levels of ozone readings at this Antarctic station, which is on the other side of the South Pole, went down as low as 110 Dobson units

during October of 1958, which is even lower than what they're measuring today. So the ozone hole was there in 1958, and it was even deeper than it is today!

As they point out today, the ozone hole exists inside a vortex, a polar vortex, which forms for two months of every year, as the polar night, six months of darkness, turns into light when the Earth is tilting toward the Sun. A very vicious belt of winds—300 mph—surrounds Antarctica and seals the continent from the outside world. No air coming in from the tropics, which is very rich in ozone, can get into the holes during those two months of the year. And then some crazy chemical processes go on inside the poles which deplete not only ozone—very complex processes—but also nitrogen oxide, water vapor, and many other chemicals, and increase the concentration of many other chemicals. It's a very inter-

The world needs more people

During the question period, Maduro discussed some of the political and economic issues underlying the environmental debate.

If the developed sector rose to levels of technology and consumption of the advanced sector, you would end most environmental destruction in the world. Because most environmental destruction comes from poverty. Take deforestation: Sixty percent of global deforestation comes from the burning of firewood; another 20-25% comes from the slash-and-burn agriculture. If you had fossil fuel plants, if you had nuclear power plants, if you had fusion reactors in the Third World, you would not have all the trees down and burn them for fuel. It's insane, absolutely nuts! Despite the fact that that's what the environmentalists advocate . . . sustainable energy sources; they say you should burn the wood—it's crazy. That's what's leading deforestation throughout the world. . . .

. . . The world is vastly underpopulated. People don't realize that if every man, woman, and child on the face of the earth were standing next to each other, they could fit inside the city of Tampa, Florida. If each man, woman, and child—if each family had a house with two acres of land, they would fit inside Texas. The world is underpopulated! It's mostly empty! The world can easily sustain 35-50 billion people at present standards of living, and not be crowded, and not be destroyed. It's all a question of what level of technology you're going to be using.

There are environmental problems, there are some very severe problems—the question of deforestation is



probably the greatest. (Well, actually, the question of the spread of diseases is the greatest environmental problem. Man is part of the environment, and you have a biological holocaust.) The second problem is deforestation; but that is the lack of technology. The third problem is slash-and-burn agriculture. You need tractors and fertilizers! If you travel to Germany, it's very interesting. It's a beautiful country: You can travel through Germany, and you don't feel you're in a populated country, because most of the time you have farmlands. The problem is . . . you want to keep the beauty of nature at the same time as you elevate the status of man. You can do both if you have the right technologies, if you have the most advanced technologies, and if you plan ahead to do it that way.