

AUSTRALIA PLAYS KEY ORGANIZING ROLE FOR FOOD BANK

Oct. 31 (IPS)--While the U.S. Administration is tied down in factional disputes, the Australian Labour Party government has played a leading role in organizing for Rockefeller's food policies. Earlier this month, the Australian Foreign Minister Willesee gave a propagandist speech in favor of world food reserves. Since then, he and Agriculture Minister Wreidt have been preparing concrete quotas and other implementation machinery in time for the World Food Conference.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Whitlam and his Deputy Prime Minister Cairns have set up trips to Europe, Japan, the U.S., Canada and even China to coordinate the international food control apparatus. On Whitlam's recent North American tour, the number one topic at the talks with Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau was "world food supplies. In the U.S., Whitlam met with Ford and Kissinger to discuss, among other things, the proposal to lend surplus oil revenues to "needy countries" for development projects.

The Australian Labour government's hypocrisy about "helping the hungry" is revealed by its refusal this spring to sell grain to famine-struck Bangladesh and India, even at "free market" prices--even though Australia is one of the world's major grain producers.

PERU PUSHES "WORK FOR FOOD" SLAVE LABOR

Oct. 31 (IPS)--The Peruvian government will be represented at the World Food Conference in Rome by specialists who have been working since 1965 in tight coordination with the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization's World Food Program. The "work for your lunch program" in Peru has been highly "successful" according to these experts. On part of the program, called "Local Roads and Other Infrastructure" mobilized 245,962 peasant workers for a cost of only \$1,875,600. All the peasants received for their work was food for themselves and their families. With 6,710,000 kilos of food (or eight kilos per capita), they built 2,761 kilometers of road, 45 dams, 184 kilometers of irrigation canals, 39 bridges, 104 schoolrooms, etc.

Other thousands of tons of food are used in resettlement projects to feed the settlers while they are doing unpaid infrastructure work and waiting to harvest their crops. The food program not only has cut costs but has reduced the number of escapees from resettlement projects--since settlers are totally dependent on government-controlled food distribution.