CFC ban will kill millions by starvation

by Rogelio Maduro

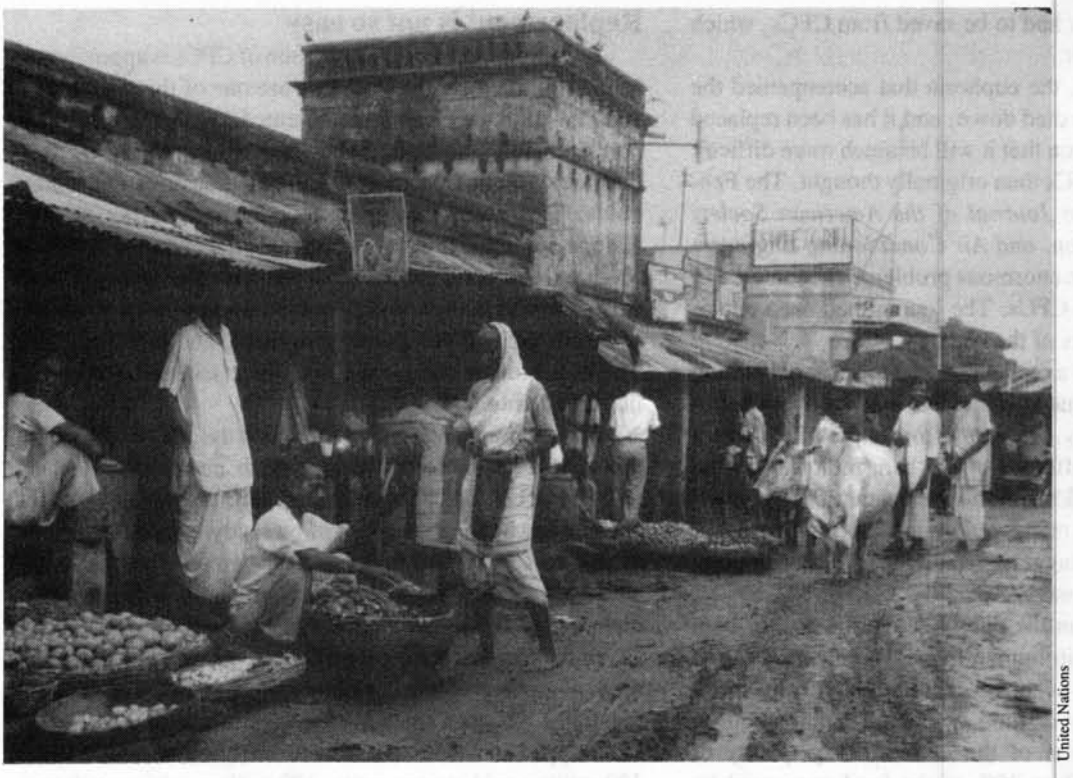
On April 4, television and radio broadcasts across the United States were filled with dire news. A new study from NASA claimed that ozone depletion in the Northern Hemisphere was occurring much faster than the theory predicted. Numbers as high as 6-8% ozone depletion were reported, and the next day, newspapers were filled with stories of how 200,000 Americans were going to die of skin cancer because of this ozone depletion, allegedly caused by chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

The only problem is, that the "study" mentioned in all these media accounts does not exist. When asked for a copy of the scientific report being cited, Brian Dunbar of NASA's public relations office said, "There is no report. These are very preliminary findings." He could not say when a report would be available, since the results "have not been peer reviewed yet." When scientists write a study today, before it is released to the public, they are expected to submit their work to other qualified scientists who are neutral on the issue, to review the data and make sure the study's conclusions are in accordance with the evidence presented, and that the data are not fraudulent.

Further, the claims of increased ozone depletion contradict real data from ground stations measuring ultraviolet (UV) radiation which demonstrate without a doubt that levels of UV have *decreased* over 7% since 1974. If the ozone layer were being depleted, UV levels would increase 2% for each 1% decrease in the ozone layer, according to the theory. That is, UV levels should have increased 16% by now. Exactly the opposite has occurred.

Unfortunately, giving press conferences to announce fraudulent data that have not been through a peer review has become standard procedure for a small group of pseudo-scientists who have become very prominent in the past few years, claiming that all kinds of disasters are overtaking the Earth: global warming, ozone depletion, acid rain, radon in the basement, and whatnot. When examined in detail, all of these doomsday theories have proven to be scientific frauds.

Unbeknownst to the public, many of the world's leading atmospheric scientists



United Nations

A food market in Bengal, India. The ban on CFCs, whose principal use is in refrigeration, will collapse the worldwide "cold chain." There is no viable alternative to these benign chemicals, and without adequate refrigeration, food will rot, causing the death by starvation and disease of 20-40 million people, particularly in the Third World.

have published papers in the scientific literature demonstrating every single aspect of the ozone depletion theory to be a fraud.

But there is a counterreaction building, in Third World nations and industries around the world, to the ban on CFCs. Following the international signing of a treaty banning CFCs by the year 2000 in London on June 29, 1990, reality is starting to sink in. As we shall detail in the following pages, the ban on CFCs will cost the world economy $3-5 trillion by the year 2005.

More horrifying, experts in the refrigeration industry—the most prominent users of CFCs—point out that the ban on CFCs will collapse the worldwide refrigeration chain, causing the death of an additional 20-40 million human beings every year due to starvation and food-borne diseases. At present, 40 million people die needlessly every year of hunger.

A deliberate malthusian policy

These scientific frauds are being cooked up as an instrument of global policies being dictated by the Anglo-American interests which control the environmentalist movement. Their aim is to force a vast reduction in the world's population, particularly among non-whites in the developing sector. Their view is that the world is vastly overpopulated. Instead of acclerating the rate of economic and scientific development so that the world's population could be supported at a higher standard of living and be allowed to expand naturally, they have opted instead to wipe out the "useless eaters."

A key method of accomplishing this end is to cut off Third World nations' access to essential technology. Last year, a high French defense official, writing under the pseudonym of Jean Villars in the magazine *L'Express*, called on the West to adopt what he called a "brutal" policy of "technological apartheid," arguing that only by denying high technology to the Third World could the West protect itself from upstart countries like Iraq.

The Bush administration has embraced technological apartheid with a vengeance. The genocidal concept—genocidal because it is an instrument of mass murder against the developing sector—is the driving force behind key Bush policies, including his new export control regime (the Enhanced Proliferation Control Initiative, unveiled this spring) and the ban on CFCs.

The Montreal Protocol

On June 27-29, 1990, the representatives of 93 nations met at a conference in London chaired by then-British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The meeting was called upon to revise the original Montreal Protocol of 1987, which set the first global controls on the manufacture of chlorofluorocarbons. Of the nations present, 59 agreed to sign this new version of the Montreal Protocol, which imposed even more drastic cutbacks on CFCs than the original treaty, and added several more chemicals to the list of those to be banned. The urgency for signing this unprecedented international treaty

was that the ozone layer had to be saved from CFCs, which are allegedly depleting it.

Almost a year later, the euphoria that accompanied the signing of the treaty has died down, and it has been replaced by the sobering realization that it will be much more difficult and costly to replace CFCs than originally thought. The February 1991 issue of the *Journal of the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers* (ASHRAE) warns of the enormous problems encountered in finding replacements to CFCs. The journal had been one of the staunchest supporters of the ban on CFCs.

Indeed, there is now a realization that the cost of banning CFCs and other halogenated chemicals may be overwhelming to the world economy. Estimates from experts in different industries that will be affected by the ban, indicate that the cost may be as high as $5 trillion by the year 2005. Knowledgeable sources in the refrigeration industry have told *EIR* that the costs are so staggering that Japan is considering pulling out of the Montreal Protocol.

More significant than the purely economic cost of banning CFCs, is the cost in human lives. The increase in the human population in the twentieth century is largely the result of improved availability of food, which has come about in considerable part because of the extraordinary quality of CFCs as refrigerants. Over 75% of the food consumed by Americans today is refrigerated at one point or another by CFCs. The ban on CFCs will mean that *most of the hundreds of millions of refrigeration units installed worldwide will have to be scrapped.* The consequences will be a collapse of food storage capacity worldwide, and a dramatic increase in the death rate. The only feasible alternative to CFCs in food preservation qualities is food irradiation, which is opposed by the same environmentalists who are out to ban CFCs.

News reports on the London conference of last June claimed that the representatives of the 59 nations that ratified the treaty had signed on because of the compelling scientific evidence that was presented at the conference. On the contrary, most nations signed because they had a gun put to their heads: There is a clause in the Montreal Protocol that mandates economic warfare against any nation that does not sign the treaty. Article 4, titled "Control of Trade with Non-Parties," mandates that signatory nations will impose a total trade embargo against any nation that does not abide by the protocol. Signatory nations are even prohibited from exporting these "controlled substances" to any nation that does not sign.

Why would such a clause be necessary in a treaty that is supposed to save the Earth and human lives? The reason is that those nations that are now becoming industrialized are being told to stay in the pre-industrial dark ages, and those that are industrialized will have to pay a very heavy penalty, sacrificing the standard of living of their lower and middle classes to fatten the pocketbooks of an international cartel that will control the technologies of the future.

Replacement is not so easy

At present, the world production of CFCs is approximately 1.1 million tons a year. CFCs are one of the most benign and versatile chemicals ever invented; they are very stable, nonflammable, nontoxic, and have noncorrosive qualities that make them extremely useful in industries and households. Therefore, they have found a wide array of uses. Halons, a related group of chemicals also banned under the Montreal Protocol, are the most effective firefighting chemicals known to man, and play essential roles in the protection of electronic and computer equipment, and in the military. These and other chemicals, and their scheduled bans, are listed in **Table 1.**

The environmental hoaxsters behind the ban on CFCs claim that it will be simple to replace these chemicals. That is a lie. The public has been told that there are "ozone-friendly" chemicals which can be used in presently existing equipment to replace CFCs. That is completely wrong. That means that all of the existing equipment that use CFCs will have to be replaced by equipment which can use such new chemicals. Given the fact that the equipment to be scrapped includes hundreds of millions of home, commercial, and industrial refrigeration units, it is not a small matter. The volume of equipment to be scrapped includes: 610 million refrigerators and freezers, 120 million cold storage units, 100 million refrigerated transports, and 150 million auto air conditioners.

The infrastructure problem does not end here. Extremely important is the issue of those refrigerators that will not be built, or will be built at a much higher cost. Third World countries—mainly India, China, Brazil, South Korea, and Taiwan, countries in areas of the world where fewer than 1 in 100 households has a refrigerator—had embarked upon an ambitious program to produce refrigerators. Under original estimates made in 1988, these countries were expected to purchase or produce 400-500 million refrigerators by the year 2000. That would have required a sevenfold increase in the amount of CFCs produced every year for refrigeration purposes, and would have shifted the bulk of CFCs production from Europe and the United States to new chemical factories in the Third World. Under the shock effect of a total ban on CFCs by the year 2000, it is quite uncertain what the amount of refrigerants required by the year 2000 will actually be. Even as the hopes of the Third World are dashed, demand for refrigerants should at least quadruple by the year 2000. This includes both new demand, and the gigantic amount of equipment that will have to be manufactured to replace existing refrigeration systems that use CFCs.

What does this mean? Under the present Montreal Protocol, those chemical corporations that had a monopoly on CFC production in 1986 are allowed to continue producing CFCs under a schedule that reduces their production quotas every year. As CFCs become scarcer, their price will rise. At present CFCs are selling for approximately $5 per pound in the United States. Experts calculate that the price will be

TABLE 1
Vital chemicals to be banned

Controlled substance	Uses	Controls under 1990 update to Montreal Protocol
CFCs	Refrigeration, air conditioning, rigid and flexible plastic foams, solvent in electronics industry, aerosols	Complete phase-out by 2000
Halons	Fire extinguishers (especially in hospitals, ships, aircraft, computer rooms)	Complete phase-out by 2000
HCFCs	Replacement for CFCs in refrigeration, foam blowing, and aerosols	No legal controls but a declaration that they should be phased out no later than 2020-40; most likely to be banned by 2000
Carbon tetrachloride	Chemical feedstock for CFCs, solvent, in pharmaceuticals, pesticides, some paints	Cut 85% by 1995, phase-out by 2000
Methyl chloroform	Solvent for precision metalworking and electronics industry	Cut 70% by 2000, phase-out by 2005

$15-20 per pound by 1995-96, much higher afterwards. That price includes the cost of producing CFCs, which is still less than 50¢ per pound, and the tax on CFCs; the rest is pure profits for Du Pont, ICI, and the other chemical giants.

The refrigeration and air conditioning industry had relied very heavily on using the family of hydro-chlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) to replace CFCs. HCFCs, a CFC with an extra hydrogen atom which supposedly makes it more "ozone-friendly," is not included in the ban. Recent meetings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which is becoming an international ecological dictatorship, have made it very clear it intends to ban HCFCs also by the year 2000, because they are "super-greenhouse" gases and will cause global warming and submerge New York City and other places under water.

What does all this mean for the international chemical cartel? The cheapest available alternative, if it works, is HFC-134a, patented by the Du Pont Corp. HFC-134a is 30 times more expensive than CFC-12, which it replaces. Conservatively estimating that the use of refrigerants will quadruple by the year 2000, one can calculate that the market for refrigerants will amount to $150-200 billion that year. Not a bad deal for a chemical cartel that was taking in only $1 billion a year on refrigerants in 1988.

The figure of $200 billion a year is consistent with the calculations of senior executives in the refrigeration industry in the United States and Europe, who estimate that the 1990 update to the Montreal Protocol will cost somewhere between $500 billion and $1 trillion by the year 2000. That figure only involves the cost of the refrigeration sector, and does not include the increased cost of foods due to increased refrigeration costs. As we have noted before, refrigeration only accounts for 30% of CFC use.

One of the immediate results of banning CFCs will be to drive Third World chemical producers out of business. Third World chemical industries do not possess the research capabilities to manufacture alternatives to CFCs, and the alternatives that now exist will be patented by members of the chemical cartel in the West. Even if the cartel companies sell their patents to Third World countries (at hefty prices), those countries will still have to scrap their chemical factories and build new ones designed to produce these new chemicals if allowed by the chemical giants.

This is a question of technological apartheid. In March 1989, spokesmen for Du Pont and Penwalt corporations announced that construction of chemical factories for production of CFCs in the Third World had been halted, and existing contracts to build CFCs factories would not be honored! The new company policies are to export CFCs to these nations for a few years until "phase-out," when Third World nations will have to buy the rather expensive substitutes, which they can't even use in their existing equipment.

We have talked so far about the financial costs of banning CFCs, but what the environmentalists have kept very quiet is a more profound issue, which is the fact that lack of refrigeration kills people. We ought to examine this in detail, since the entire basis for banning CFCs is the claim that a few thousand white-skinned people will get skin cancer every year because of ozone depletion. In over 99.9% of the cases, skin cancer is not fatal. On the other hand, starvation and malnutrition are definitely fatal to tens of millions of human beings every year.

An analysis of the role of refrigeration in modern society was made by Prof. Dr. W. Kaminski of the Institute of Agricultural and Foodstuff Economy in Warsaw, Poland. In a speech at an International Refrigeration Conference in Paris, in 1988, Kaminski stated: "Refrigeration—under condition that a well-organized and complex cold chain is applied, can, to a large extent, contribute to increasing the safeguarding of world food resources through ensuring an important decrease

in the quantitive and qualitative losses in food produced, right from the harvesting of raw materials and up to the consumption of the finished product." The food losses Kaminski refers to are enormous: "Many specialists evaluate these losses as being from 20 to 25% and even up to 30%" of all foodstuffs produced, he says. "Losses in fruit and vegetables generally reach 30 to 40%."

As for the consequence of lack of refrigeration, he says, "the present world production of perishable products which necessitate refrigeration is more than 1.5 billion tons per year, of which 250 to 300 million tons are lost because refrigeration was not fully applied. If we can safeguard these food products, there will be a supplementary food quantity of about 80 kilograms per inhabitant of this Earth per year."

This last point is extremely important. There is enough food produced today in the world to feed the entire world population. The problem is that upwards of 30 to 40% of the food spoils for lack of refrigeration. If this food were preserved, at least 30 million of the 40 million human beings who die every year of hunger, would live. This is precisely the reason why China, Brazil, India, and other countries made the manufacturing of hundreds of millions of refrigerators such a priority.

A case study: the fishing industry

The most important source of protein in the Third World, fish, will be the hardest hit by the ban on CFCs. According to Kaminski, "Chilling and freezing play a very important role in the fisheries world economy, particularly as regards utilizing the riches of the oceans to feed the world's population." He reports that during the past 35 years, fisheries resources have increased four times, and at present they represent about 16 kilograms per capita at global levels. He emphasizes, "*Such an expansion in the fisheries during 1948-83 was made possible through the widespread application of chilling,* particularly freezing in fishing boats, generally high sea trawlers (which considerably widened fishing territorial waters) as well as through the extension of the cold chain for the requirements of inland fish economy (cold rooms, specialized refrigerated transport, wholesale fish dealers, etc.)."

That is the same "cold chain" which is now being destroyed by the environmentalists through the ban on CFCs.

The importance of fish in the diet of the poor people of the world is enormous. Kaminski states, "The following data show proof of the important role of the fisheries economy in world feeding: The fisheries (in the weight of catches) constitute about 50% of world meat production and two and half times greater than world egg production, it exceeds 6 times the butter production and 10 times the cheese production. In certain countries and regions of the world, fish constitutes the principal source of animal proteins in feeding the population."

This is all possible, according to Kaminski, because "freezing has become the most widely employed fish preservation technique which prolongs the storage duration, it provides obvious profits in the fish trade and contributes to maintaining high product quality, etc. The perfecting of chilling and freezing techniques has enabled the transport of fish to very distant consumer regions far from the fishing grounds and it has also enabled fish to be consumed all year round."

The ban on CFCs will be devastating to the world's cold storage and transport infrastructure, the fishing fleets, and the refrigerated sea transport fleet, which consists of some 10,000 ships with a capacity exceeding 10 million cubic meters, excluding containers.

The death toll

International refrigeration experts privately estimate that hundreds of millions of people will die over the next 15 years as the international refrigeration cold chain collapses because of the ban of CFCs. As noted, it is officially estimated that every year over 40 million human beings die of hunger. By collapsing the worldwide cold chain, the environmentalists will increase the death toll from hunger dramatically. Although there is no agreement as to the total from experts in the refrigeration industry, they estimate that an increase in the death toll between 20 and 40 million per year, by the year 2005, would be a conservative estimate.

The death toll has even been acknowledged by Robert Watson, head of the Ozone Trends Panel, and the man who released the figures that set off the recent April Fool's ozone scare. In an interview with syndicated columnist Alston Chase in 1989, Watson confessed that "probably more people would die from food poisoning as a consequence of inadequate refrigeration than would die from depleting ozone." During a February 1990 meeting of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in Washington, D.C., this author asked Watson how he could support a ban in CFCs if he knew so many people were going to die from it. Watson responded he had changed his mind recently. The top representative of the Du Pont Corp. had convinced him that their replacements for CFCs would do the job, and Watson now insisted that not a single person would die because of lack of refrigerated food. This author asked Watson how he could trust any figures from Du Pont, since they stood to make so much money on the ban, and Watson, by this time quite irate, responded, "Of course they are going to make enormous profits, what else did you expect?"

Preventing the Third World from building a refrigeration capacity is one of the stated purposes of the malthusian environmentalists now making policy in Washington. EPA chief William Reilly made this very clear in July 1989 when he stated, "The prospect of seeing countries move forward with major development plans involving, as we heard in China, a proposal for 300 million new refrigerators possibly based on CFCs, makes very clear that we must engage them in this process and bring them to participate in the science."