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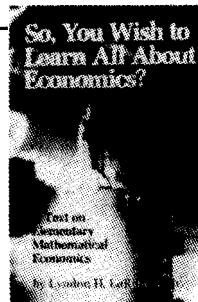
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Global warming issue heats up India

by Ramtanu Maitra

A heated debate has erupted in India after the publication of a report by the U.S.-based World Resources Institute which purports to show that half of the alleged global warming that has occurred over the past few decades has been caused by developing nations. Aside from the fundamental issue raised by many Indian scientists that there is still no scientific evidence that this global warming is even occurring, there are more down to earth issues involved. The WRI and other environmental groups are demanding a halt to all further industrialization in the Third World, ostensibly to prevent any further warming. While many Indians are ready to toe the line propagated by the international environmentalists that Third World nations are to be blamed for the contribution of carbon dioxide and methane, others have branded such an analysis a neocolonial plot.

The WRI report was duly endorsed by Darryl D'Monte, one of the unusually many Catholic Christians among the leading environmentalists in India, in a commentary in the daily *Times of India*. Though WRI's methods of calculation could be refined, D'Monte said, "there does not seem to be much doubt that, by any standards, India and China are major contributors of greenhouse gases." D'Monte also endorsed the Worldwatch Institute's proposal to impose a \$50 fine per ton of carbon dioxide emitted by any country annually. Such a fine would generate \$280 billion each year, which could be channeled into research to find an environmentally friendly technology. Under this plan, India would have to pay some \$9 billion annually.

Reacting to the WRI and D'Monte's endorsement, an Indian grouping, the Center for Science and Environment (CSE), produced a booklet, "Global Warming: A Case of Environmental Colonialism." The whole exercise of the WRI was a sham, the result of "disseminating bad data based on bad science and bad mathematics," charged CSE. Earlier this year, CSE held a high-profile seminar in New Delhi to present its case. The main disagreement apparently is the calculation of natural "sinks" that absorb greenhouse gases. These "sinks" are soil, vegetation, oceans, atmosphere, etc. Total emissions, minus what is absorbed in the "sink," gives net emissions for a country. The WRI apportioned the world's sinks to each country according to that country's emissions. According to this logic, bigger polluters have big sinks, and the smaller ones have small sinks. The CSE contends that

sinks should be apportioned on a per capita basis. According to their reckoning, emissions from the U.S. and Soviet Union ought to be higher than what the WRI says, and those of both India and China lower. The CSE went further in arguing for punitive taxes imposed on those countries whose net emissions exceed the allotted quota. These taxes are to go to those countries which maintain emissions below the quota.

Such a calculation to show who pays how much to whom, raises some interesting possibilities. While both the U.S. and Soviet Union will have to pay taxes, India and China will be on the receiving end. Small African nations like Guinea, Gabon, and Liberia will be net taxpayers, if the CSE has its way.

The findings resulted from the CSE model's bias against low population and a low population growth rate. It is likely that the CSE model will be looked at suspiciously by fellow environmentalists in sparsely populated countries in Africa and South America.

Charge of neocolonialism


In addition, CSE spokesman Anil Agarwal wrote in the booklet that Western nations have sustained a propaganda drive to insist that the deforestation in developing countries and the generation of methane through irrigated rice farming and cattle raising is also contributing to global warming.

Accusations against the WRI of "neocolonialism" are most appropriate, as the WRI has become one of the leading voices of the racist Anglo-American elite. Since 1987, the institute has received over \$30 million in grants from such blueblood outfits as the Rockefeller Family Fund, the Ford Foundation, and the MacArthur Foundation. This money has been used to finance all of the studies which the WRI is issuing to manipulate policy around the global warming and ozone depletion scares. Moreover, many "former" top operatives of the U.S. intelligence establishment have joined the WRI in recent years.

Meanwhile, Indian scientists are working to try to determine whether there is "global warming." They are still not sure about the phenomenon. Announcing the decision to launch satellites carrying a variety of environmental monitoring devices, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) chief Prof. U.R. Rao told newsmen recently, "When we talk of the greenhouse effect, we need to have information. . . . The ozone hole appears and disappears, the carbon levels fluctuate. We must know why it is occurring." Indian scientists are also participating in a joint study which involves sending low-frequency pulses between a fixed source and a receiver deep in the ocean. Since the speed sound travels in the oceans depends on the temperature, the travel-time of the acoustic pulse will diminish at a rate proportional to the oceanic warming. The fixed transmitting source is a vessel off the coast of Heard Island in the South Indian Ocean, a unique location which provides access to monitor in all five ocean basins.

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