

Business Briefs

Ecological Fascism

India rejects Montreal Protocol

Indian Environment Minister Kamal Nath said Sept. 20 that his government will not sign the Montreal Protocol pledging measures to eliminate the ozone "hole," because it threatens India's sovereignty as a nation, according to London's *Independent*.

Nath said that India was unhappy about the conditions governing aid for finding "alternatives" to chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). The conditions may infringe on India's sovereignty, he said.

Refrigeration is next to impossible without CFCs. Substitutes are much more expensive, and inferior. The implications for Third World food supply are serious. Other established technologies are also virtually eliminated if CFCs are.

The ozone "hole" was larger when discovered in 1956 than it is now. Human industrial "emissions" have been blamed, although one volcanic eruption—and there is a live volcano close to the site of the "hole" in Antarctica—emits more ozone-damaging gases than all industry in human history.

The conditions referred to by Nath are restrictions on industrial development. India obviously suspects an "imperialist" environmentalist hoax.

Space

Japan opens 'microgravity center'

Japan has begun some unique "space experiment" activity on Earth. Japan has recently opened a Microgravity Center, which is located in a 2,330-foot-deep mine shaft on Hokkaido island. If an object is dropped down the shaft it takes about 10 seconds for it to reach the bottom.

If the object encounters no air resistance or other obstruction on its way down, it experiences a few seconds of weightlessness, as it is in "free fall." Inside of the shaft is a vacuum-

sealed capsule, which is guided down the shaft by magnetic fields, and there is a compressed air brake for soft landings.

Though this is a small-scale version of hours and days of weightlessness when the Shuttle is in orbit, it provides Japanese scientists the opportunity to do preliminary experiments on new alloys, crystal growing, and other materials processing, as a precursor to space experiments.

The facility cost \$38 million to build, and each experiment costs \$7,000.

International Credit

World Bank takes in more than it gives out

The World Bank collected more in interest and capital repayments from the developing nations than it disbursed in new loans and assistance last year, the recently released 1991 World Bank *Annual Report* reveals. The developing nations, especially in Ibero-America, paid back \$1.56 billion more than they received in new funding last year.

The revelations could cause "immediate problems" for new World Bank President Lewis Preston of J.P. Morgan, who succeeded Barber Conable in September, London's *Guardian* reported. It warned of "sharp criticism" from Third World countries at the upcoming International Monetary Fund-World Bank meeting in Bangkok in October.

Ibero-America and the Caribbean nations paid the World Bank \$2.1 billion through July 1, 1991, and Europe (including eastern Europe), the Middle East, and North Africa paid out \$982 million, bringing the outflows from these regions to \$6 billion over the past four years. The Asian nations netted only \$470 million—for a region with three-fifths of the world's population—and impoverished black Africa \$895 million.

The World Bank predicts a 5% decline in the gross domestic product of eastern Europe due to the breakdown of Comecon, the loss of exports to the former U.S.S.R., and the Gulf crisis. Eastern Europe is expected to have a \$20 billion shortfall in the current calendar year.

While World Bank "lending" increased

from \$15.2 billion to \$16.4 billion from last year to this, net disbursement plummeted to \$6.3 billion from \$9.3 billion a year earlier.

New World Order

Indian politician warns of 'free market' danger

A leading, young Indian politician has warned his country that the Anglo-American elite is attempting to impose "free market" measures on the world to preserve its power.

Speaking at a conference on "Challenges before the Youth and the Nation," sponsored by former youth leaders of the ruling Congress Party in New Delhi, Sikkim state Congress Party leader P.P. Gurung told 450 youth leaders—60 of whom are parliamentarians—that the Gulf war's outcome launched a campaign to subjugate Third World nations to the "free market."

India, he said, cannot stand alone against the increasing pressure exerted by the Anglo-Americans worldwide to impose "free market" economy. Other nations in Asia are equally concerned about the Anglo-American pressure to open their markets. They recognize that by doing so, their nations' fragile economic structures will be devastated and their countries will face hundreds of secessionist movements which are similar in nature to the ones that Moscow is facing now. Unless the Asian nations can turn the tide against the free market onslaught, India's integrity will be seriously challenged, he said.

India's foreign policy should anchor upon developing close relations with China, Japan, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, Gurung said. They should form an economic axis. He also pointed out that all these nations are encountering manipulation on the part of the Anglo-Americans through environmental issues.

The conference was attended by most Indian government ministers. Prime Minister Narasimha Rao spoke on the same day. During the speech of Minister of State for External Affairs Eduardo Faleiro, Gurung also told him that India would do well to respond positively to a recent diplomatic gesture by Chinese Premier Li Peng.

AIDS

Mother's milk can transmit infection

The *New England Journal of Medicine* has just released a study from Kigali, Rwanda which shows that 4 of 11 mothers infected with HIV during breastfeeding, transmitted the virus to their babies. It has been known that a mother's milk can contain the virus, but it was said that this means of infection is "extremely rare."

Possibly, the virus enters the body of the baby through the mucous membrane of the baby's mouth. Scientists believe that a fresh HIV infection of the mother during breastfeeding poses the strongest risk to the baby, because of the huge amount of viruses showing up in the body at that time.

Nature magazine commented on this "new" finding: "It is a fact, that we don't know the real extent of the risk of getting infected."

Environmentalism

German daily attacks 'neo-malthusianism'

Neo-malthusianism was attacked in the Sept. 25 *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* in a half-page feature on the new report by the Club of Rome.

Malthus did not invent the theory of population growth, but rather provided an academic cover for the theory of *laissez mourir* (let them die) that had been produced earlier by Robert Wallace and Joseph Townsend—the population policy component of the *laissez faire* approach on economics, said the editorial.

Although Malthus's theories have long been discredited by the rise of population and food production at the same time, malthusianism is still in vogue among people like Club of Rome member Maurice Strong, who argued against "oral rehydration" of Third World children with diarrhea in a recent article in *The Lancet*, a British medical journal.

"This is rigid British utilitarianism in the early version of Jeremy Bentham," the paper

stated, mentioning, among others, Paul Ehrlich as the inventor of the "population bomb" hoax.

More expenses for health and education are an investment into labor productivity, says the paper. Population growth is not a burden, but rather an enrichment—if the economic conditions a population lives in are human.

Science

Gamma ray distribution confounds astronomers

Data newly acquired from NASA's ultrasensitive Gamma Ray Observatory (GRO), launched six months ago, were made public Sept. 23 at a press conference in Washington, providing scientists with a major surprise. The 117 gamma ray bursts observed so far are distributed more or less evenly over the sky.

The theory has been that neutron stars, supposed remnants of supernovae, are the source of gamma ray bursts, but this would require that the bursts be concentrated toward the center of the galaxy, or at least clustered in the galactic disk. Only recently, the Soviet gamma ray observatory Granat had appeared to confirm the latter theory.

If the bursts come from beyond the galaxy, "then the energy released in the brief one-second flash of gamma rays is many times the total energy released when a star explodes in a supernova," according to Dr. Neil Gehrels, the GRO chief scientist at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

According to NASA scientist Gerald Fishman, the observations cannot be explained by any existing theory or object. Physicist Paul Joss said the discovery will have a "very dramatic effect" in the science community. "I am at a total loss to explain the findings." Other scientists called the findings "astounding" and "mind-blowing."

Gamma rays are produced in nature by changes of state within atomic nuclei. The gamma ray bursts detected from space last from a fraction of a second to hundreds of seconds.

Briefly

● **20 MILLION** people are blinded each year from infectious diseases. Most of them live in the "Third World." This was announced at a German congress of ophthalmologists in Bonn. Most cases could be cured if medicine were available.

● **THE BALTIC STATES** have announced a six-point economic cooperation plan featuring creation of a customs union, price controls, and monetary reform. Also planned are joint energy, transport, and telecommunications projects.

● **WEATHER** satellites will be borrowed from Europe by the United States until the next budget-delayed U.S. satellite is launched, the Commerce Department has reported. Two European organizations have agreed to move the Meteosat 3 satellite farther west to increase U.S. coastal storm coverage. It has already alerted the U.S. to Hurricane Bob last summer.

● **THE WORLD BANK** will provide \$100 million to reform Venezuela's "antiquated" judicial system. A government spokesman said that in a complete "free market" economy, the expectation is that there will be more "economic conflicts" due to "economic movement," requiring more emphasis on "white collar crime."

● **ALAN GARCIA**, the former President of Peru, said Sept. 23, "they want to get me because I confronted the IMF." Referring to efforts to implicate him the Bank of Credit and Commerce International scandal, Garcia said, "If because I confronted the International Monetary Fund, the bankers and the wealthy, they want to punish me—well, here I am. . . . I have come to expect a political, unjust accusation inspired by fear and hate."

● **THE PRESIDENT** of Benin, Nicéphore Soglo, told a conference in the capital of Cotonou in mid-September that there could not be "democracy without bread." Living standards must be improved, he said.