

dise comes with its own brand of spirituality and sacred rituals, namely those of the Amerindian religions, and explicitly opposes the Judeo-Christian religions and the mandate of Genesis, that man should be fruitful, multiply, and subdue the Earth.

Unfortunately, the bucolic ideology of Sir Jimmy has found an echo in the worst tendencies of de Villiers's own "defense of the soil," and the racist, anti-immigrant mentality typical of those right-wing Catholic circles who joined ranks with Marshal Pétain, the premier of Vichy France, during World War II. Thanks to Sir Jimmy, de Villiers has now become as anti-nuclear as he.

### 'Clean Hands,' but dirty politics

As if this cocktail were not bad enough, add to it Judge Thierry Jean Pierre, who joined the slate with the specific purpose of using it to launch a "Clean Hands" campaign against alleged corruption in France and in Europe as a whole, along the lines of what was done in Italy already, for purposes which had nothing to do with "corruption," but everything to do with political blackmail. Jean Pierre's hand is behind some of the most important scandals hitting the government of President François Mitterrand over the past

few years.

It was he who leaked to the press his investigations on the Pelat affair, one of the main reasons for the suicide of former Prime Minister Pierre Bérégovoy. Jean Pierre has just published a *Black Book on Corruption* in France, targeting the two main public works companies, CGE and Lyonnaise des Eaux-Dumez, as being responsible for 80% of the political corruption in the country. No sooner had this been done, than the report made the front page of the *Wall Street Journal*, provoking massive selling out of those companies on the part of London and New York investors. In the meantime, the City of London was awash with rumors that two officials of those companies were soon to be indicted, a campaign which was considerably reenforced by the Hollinger Corp.'s *Sunday Telegraph* in London.

"Will France Be the New Italy?" asked the *Sunday Telegraph* even before the results of the election were known. France can still avoid such a fate, on condition that the country is steered, as Gen. Charles de Gaulle once steered it, away from a chauvinist "defense of the soil," and is given a mission to bring economic, scientific, and technological progress to the world, and in particular, to the poorer nations of the planet.

## What is the UNDP doing in your country?

It turns out that the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has gone into the business of running elections in sovereign countries. Case in point: Malawi. On May 17, ninety-year-old President Kamuzu Banda stepped down from office after a 30-year dictatorship. Enclaved and isolated from the world, Banda ran Malawi as a regimented society where the Malawi Congress Party reigned supreme. In 1971, Banda declared himself President for Life. But the ending of apartheid in South Africa, the extreme poverty and economic dependence of Malawi, and Banda's own deteriorating health, culminated in forcing him to bow to pressure from donor countries who were conditioning their aid on the introduction of "democratic governance" and a "free-market economy."

In stepped the UNDP to dictate the change. In July 1993, a representative of the UNDP, Australian judge Michael Kirby, presided over a constitutional conference with financial assistance from Britain. A new constitution was drawn up, without even the participation of Malawi nationals! A "United Nations Election Assistance Secretariat" was set up in the capital, Lilongwe, with regional

offices in the north and south of the country.

Banda, however, insisted on organizing a referendum on the principle of a return to multi-party politics, in which the President's grouping garnered only 37% for retaining a one-party system. In his wounded pride, Banda wanted to prove through the referendum that he was not capitulating to international pressure but to the will of the people. Eight parties contested the May 17 elections with three presidential candidates—Banda of the Malawi Congress Party; Cakufwa Chihana, an exiled trade unionist backed by the U.S. AFL-CIO; and Bakili Muluzi, imprisoned secretary general of Banda's party, who later created the United Democratic Front. Muluzi, a Muslim from the south, won the elections, and Banda conceded defeat.

The election is now being openly used as a feather in the cap of the UNDP. UNDP administrator James Gustave Speth wrote a letter to the *New York Times* to say that the Malawi elections show "the bright side of the United Nations." The UNDP, he said, has "been involved in practically all steps of the elections. . . . The United Nations helped organize the Malawi elections, including provision of support for human rights reforms that have also found a place in the country's new constitution"—which of course the UNDP wrote!

Now, who's really running Malawi?

—Lawrence Eyong-Echaw