

To: ANC - UN OBSERVER MISSION From: IPS

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"The stigma remains: iMan should work and the woman should maintain the household? When the family does not have enough then it is the mother who has forego her meal, and if there is less money to spend on education, it is again the girl who has to drop out? she said.

Women in poverty, and legal literacy were among the main items discussed by the delegates from the 45 member nations and other national, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations attending the conference, which

WESTERN NATIONS BENEFIT AS
HOSTS TO U.N. ORGANISATIONS

(Continued from Front Cover)

(UNICEF), the UN. Population Fund (UNFPA) and the U.N. Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

Switzerland hosts 13 U.N. bodies, including the World Health Organisation (WHO), the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

The U.N. University (UNU) is based in Tokyo, the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in Paris, and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Rome.

The U.N. Industrial Development Organisation and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are based in Vienna, the International Court of Justice in the Hague, and the International Maritime Organisation in Britain.

According to estimates provided by the JIU, the economic gains for Switzerland amount to 156 dollars per capita, and for the United States about 4.2 dollars per capita.

In 1990, the U.N. system, excluding the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), spent a total of \$7.5 billion. Of this, about \$3.7 billion were spent on operational activities for development in Third World countries.

The JIU says that this would imply that the 4.0 billion peoples of the developing world received in 1990 a per capita income of 0.9 dollars from the organisations of the system.

The report points out that the reason for the geographical concentration of the U.N. system in Europe and North America would seem to be mainly historical.

European and North American member-states were not only the principal architects of the U.N. system but they also formed the majority of the original membership of most of the organisations.

ends on Friday.
The Secretary General's report observed that in 1990, 19.4 percent of the world male population was illiterate compared to 33.6 percent of the women. Nearly all the female illiterates are concentrated in the developing nations, the report added.

Comparative figures in Bangladesh are even more extreme where the literacy rate for men is 47 percent, compared to 22-percent for the women, said Jahan, Bangladesh's permanent representative

to the United Nations in New York. I
Equally important is the fact that in the 1940s,
Europe may have appeared to be the centre of the
world with its colonial dependencies spread across
the globe.

The United States, for its part, emerged from
World War II as the foremost architect of the UN.
charter guarantor of world peace and security
together with the former Soviet Union.

But the report points out that the world of
1990s bears little, if any, comparison with that of
1945-1950 when the U.N. system came into being.

The practical application of the new world
agenda requires the organisations to intensify
their interactions with all member states, says the
report. "Such interactions would be enhanced by
a more deliberate spread of the organisations".

The JIU also says the share of world economic
output and scale of assessed contributions to the
budgets of the organisations may not be sufficient
justification either for the present pattern of
headquarters locations.

If such criteria were decisive, the JIU adds,
Germany, Japan and the Russian Federation would
be among the foremost candidates to host some of
the organisations.

Indispensable and important as they may be to
the functioning and mission of the U.N. system,
economic and financial considerations should not
detract from the more important substantive
attributes of the system, it says.

The JIU says these attributes are the lofty
charter ideals and universality, equality of nations,
neutrality, multicultural pluralism and
democratic value system. These unique
attributes carry no price tag, the report says.

There is no doubt that the present
headquarters locations have very well served the
organisations and their member-states for the
past 47 years.

"But the absorptive capacity of some of these
locations may now be under strain, and some
countries in the southern hemisphere and
elsewhere have made adequate progress to serve
as hosts to some of the organisations," the JIU
adds. I

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to have gained control of about 70 percent of the country since hostilities resumed after the September elections.

Dos Santos, Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) party gained a clear majority in the country's national assembly in the U.N.-supervised poll.

And Dos Santos himself fell just shy of the 50 percent majority needed in the presidential race to avoid a run-off with UNITA's leader, Jonas Savimbi, who won about 40 percent of the vote.

Despite the U.N.'s certification that the balloting was free and fair, Savimbi rejected the results, withdrew his forces from the newly unified army, and began a series of military offensives which have plunged the country back into war. Washington has repeatedly denounced Savimbi's actions which it claims have violated the May 1991 Bicesse peace accords. That agreement was mediated by Portugal, the former Soviet Union and the United States.

But, despite urging from Portugal, Russia, and its West European allies, Washington has so far declined to offer diplomatic recognition to Luanda and the MPLA.

Some US officials -- mainly former President Bush administration officers -- have argued successfully that recognising Luanda now would throw away whatever bargaining leverage Washington has left with UNITA.

More important, according to these officials, is to use that leverage in getting UNITA back into negotiations with Luanda and restoring the country to peace.

But these same officials, who have not yet been replaced by Clinton's own Africa team, have grown increasingly frustrated and angry with UNITA's actions, especially its failure late last month to show up in Addis Ababa for U.N.-sponsored talks. One Congressional source involved in drafting Thursday's resolution said the Abidjan talks are designed to give UNITA "one last chance" to show its good faith. She said that policymakers are now "definitely leaning towards recognition" for Luanda.

Thursday's resolution is clearly designed to encourage them on that path. In addition to the Democratic chairs of the two Congressional subcommittees, it has the backing of Republican Senators Nancy Kassebaum and James Jeffords.

The resolution also places the blame for post-election fighting -- which is estimated to have taken well over 20,000 lives -- squarely on UNITA. It notes that Luanda "has continued to work with the United Nations to resurrect a negotiated settlement. While UNITA has called for the removal of United Nations personnel from Angola, refused to participate in additional attempts to negotiate and threatened to carry out violence against United States companies operating throughout Angola".

The resolution also notes that Washington's response to the current crisis "will set an important precedent for action in newly emerging democracies elsewhere in Africa? I

WORLD BANK CONDITIONS

BRING PAIN, SAYS

BANGLADESH

by Senthil Ratnasabapa thy

Vienna, Mar 25 (IPS) - The conditions which accompany loans from international lending agencies like the World Bank for project development in the Third World, usually bring hardship to women and children, charged a Bangladeshi U.Nt representative Thursday, "The Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) affects our social programmes. And it is the women and children who are mostly affected by these demands," said Ismat Jahan, a participant at the 37th session of the UN. Commission of the Status of Women.

UN. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali alluded to this as well in a report he submitted to the Commission for discussion during its ten-day session. Policies made by agencies at the international and regional levels "frequently impinge on the lives of the poorif. said Ghali in his report

"International trade agreements...and the management of balance of payments: all these have implications for the social and economic conditions under which women in poverty cope. . . "

And in a resolution passed Thursday, the Commission concluded that poverty adversely affects women more so than men; it also called upon governments to formulate strategies to eradicate poverty taking into account the specific requirements of women living in poverty.

Although women are the backbone of the rural economy in developing nations, it is they who are most vulnerable to situations of extreme poverty, the Commission resolution noted.

Jahan said his country -- one of the poorest in the world -- was a perfect example of this. Neither government programmes nor legislation had helped the cause of women -- most of whom live in rural areas, and Virtually all of whom suffer from gender discrimination and age old traditions.

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He said that in order to significantly improve the human rights picture, Canada "needs a Whole lot more work". The new report focuses on several areas in which native people face discrimination and hardship.

It calls the physical conditions on many Indian reservations "a severe problem of persistent and widespread human suffering".

The report says "the well-documented shortage of adequate housing and services is only the most striking example of the squalid social conditions that still prevail in many aboriginal communities? A Parliamentary report presented late last year by Canada's three main parties outlined the housing crisis in Canadian native communities. In that report, titled Time for Action, the ruling Progressive Conservatives, as well as the Liberals, and the New Democratic Party said 1.6 billion U.S. dollars was needed to correct the most glaring aspects of the crisis.

"People are always talking about the Third World countries, but we have a terrible situation right here -- no running water, diseases, and so on. related to housing," said Charlie Hill, spokesperson for the aboriginal grouping Assemblies of First Nations (AFN) at the time of the reports release. Only half of the 70,000 housing units on reserves are considered suitable for habitation and 30 per cent have no sewage or running water facilities. In some communities, sewage flows through open trenches.

The Canadian Human Rights Commission also notes that the number of native people in Canadian prisons is increasing. Native people accounted for 9.6 per cent of the prison population in 1987. But the figure had climbed to 11.1 per cent by 1991. The Commission also criticises the Canadian government for failing to apologise to Inuit families who were relocated between 1953 and 1957 from northern Quebec to the High Arctic, where they had difficulty surviving.

"The governments rather grudging and ungenerous position appeared to be that whatever hardships resulted from the relocation, the federal authorities had not acted improperly, and since there was no evidence of wrongdoings in this sense, no apology was warranted," the report states.

The Commission says that conditions for native people will improve only when they have more control over their own lives. It therefore calls for the resolution of land claims so that native people can have an economic base, and it urges continued progress towards native self-government.

The report says the spiritual crisis that led to a wave of suicides within the Innu community of Davis Inlet, off Canada's southeastern coast, is related to the lack of power native people in Canada have over their own affairs.

It calls for a renewal of the agreement for self-government that was contained in a constitutional package that the government recommended last year.

The proposed constitution was defeated in a public referendum.

But the Commission urges the federal government to pursue self- government "independent of any larger constitutional agreement".

"When such a significant transformation of the relationship between aboriginal and non-aboriginal Canadians is within our sights, it would be inexcusable to delay," the Commission says. I

U.S. LAWMAKERS CALL FOR RECOGNITION OF ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT

by jim Lobe

Washington, Mar 25 (IPS) - Leaders of the Africa subcommittees in the US. Congress called on President Bill Clinton here Thursday to immediately recognise the government of Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos.

In a concurrent resolution introduced in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. the lawmakers also urged Clinton to appoint a special envoy to go to Angola to help renew cease-fire talks between the Luanda government and the UNITA rebel movement.

The resolution also called for Washington to urge UN. Secretary- General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to take whatever steps may be necessary to facilitate a ceasefire and build an acceptable climate for a Presidential election in Angola?

It said such steps may include increasing the UN, presence in Angola to supervise a ceasefire and demobilise the two sides in the civil war which resumed following UNITA's defeat in elections last September.

Introduction of the resolution, co-sponsored by Democrats on the House Africa subcommittee and both Democrats and Republicans in the Senate Africa subcommittee, coincided with a renewed U.S. effort to get the warring sides in Angola back to the negotiating table.

A U.S. delegation headed by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jeff Davidow reportedly sat down with senior UNITA leaders in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, earlier Thursday in their first face-to-face talks in well over a month.

UNITA, which was backed by the U.S. and South Africa during most of the 16-year civil war which followed Angola's independence in 1975, is believed

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phase between the end of the cold war and a new system of international relations, some traits of the future world order, inwhich the United Nations Will play an essential role, are already being outlined;

"Dogmatic and singular formulaell must not be adopted, Colombo said. Asked whether he thoughtit possible to conceive a neworder without the powerful countries really delegating power to the United Nations, he said "post-cold war events -- the Gulf War, the crisis in former Yugoslavia and international intervention in Somalia point to a different approach."

"The powerful nations remainsuch, and do not delegate their powers to the UN. What they do is submit them to a process of legitimation which, inevitably, implies conditions and limits," Colombo argued.

"The power of nations is thus directed towards the achievement of aims which, though they may respond to the interests of the countries concerned. also correspond to the objectives of the internati onal community. based on the UN charter and Security Council resolutionsT, He said "if there is any delegation, it is being done by the international community to the countries which have real power so that, under the UN,s mandate, they pursue the aims 'set by the community itself: defence against aggression, maintenance or reestablishment of peace. humanitarian aid"

Colombo, a former Prime Minister of Italy, 3 the current president of Christian Democrats international.

Giving his Views on the peacekeeping role of the United Nations, Colombo said that, together with a permanent UN military force, "we must be prepared to establish multinational forms of intervention. under national flags, but always with the mandate of the United Nations?

To demonstrate the two hypotheses were valid. he pointed to the particular case of intervention in Somalia.

"Once phase one, which is multinational. is concluded, phase two will be implemented This consists in the use offorces under the UN flag, w he said.

Colombo said the use of military instruments could only be conceived in close relation with other fundamental aspects of intervention by the international community.

Thisincluded "preventive action on the political and diplomatic plane, mediation efforts aimed at resolving the political causes of conflicts and the work of constructing peace," Colombo said.

Peace, he explained, "begins once weapons are silenced and the focus is placed on cooperation With economic development and the establishment of healthy civil societies which are pluralistic and have efficient administrations."

The Foreign Minister deplored the insufficiency of existingmechanisms for the "prevention of the causes of conflicts, although both international organisms and states have already become aware of the need to reinforce them."

Citing examples of Italy's role in this sphere, he said that, "in Mozambique, our mediation contributed in a determinant way to the conclusion of a peace accord that Italian forces under the UN flag will now try to maintain."

"The same components -- mediation, peace-keeping, development aid -- also characterize the Italian commitment in Somalia, while Italian soldiers are participating in a humanitarian effort in Albania and in the pacification and reconstruction of Cambodia," he said.

The instruments which the international community has at its disposal constitute a "complex, delicate and imperfect mechanism, in the eyes of the Foreign Minister.

Therefore, HWE must seek to ensure that everyone respects the rules and that their application _ in extreme cases their imposition - is the same for all," Colombo concluded I

CANADA'S HUMAN RIGHTS

IMAGE TARNISHED BY

TREATMENT OF NATIVE

PEOPLE, SAYS COMMISSION

by Stephen Dale

Ottawa, Mar 25 (IPS) - Canada's treatment of its native peoples has sullied its reputation in the area of human rights, says a report by the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

The Commission, a federally supported independent body, says while Canada stands out as "a model of rectitude, on human rights issues, "the sad history of its relationship with its aboriginal peoples" has consistently tarnished that image.

The Commission has just released its 1992 report which says the best way to improve relations between aboriginal peoples and the mainstream society would be to introduce native self-rule.

Max Yalden, head of the Commission, told reporters here Wednesday he would give Canada a B-minus grade for its overall performance on domestic human rights issues, including aboriginal rights, equality of the sexes, and protection of the disabled.

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WESTERN NATIONS BENEFIT

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by Thalif Deen

New York, Mar 25 (IPS) - The United States and
ST'tTitZEI'land are two of the biggest beneficiaries of
the United Nations, earning more than a. billion
doiliars a year each as headquarters to several
aftthated organs of the world body.

The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). a watchdog
body of the United Nations. has; Cited Austria.
Britain, Canada, France. Italt. Japan and the
Netherlands, as some of the other-tountties which
make money as hosts to institutions in the UN
family

The JIU argued for the breakup of this
longstanding monopoly sayingthat in relation to
the global constitutency of the United Nations. the
present locations for UN bodies appear skewed
"Theyareall geogtaphieally distantfrom close
to 80 percent of the constituency comprising the
populations of the developing membetwstates oi"
the world t smith? the JIU said in a report releaeed
here.

Curi't iiy two developing countiees host
non-regioh Ninstitutions _, the Dominican
Republic, home of the International Research and
Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
(INSTRAW), and Kenya home of the UN
Environment Programme (UNEP)and theU N Centre
for Human Settlements (Habitat).

This list excludes U.N_ regional ECOHOIITIC
commissions which have a specific geographical
focus and mandate. These include the Economic
Commission for Africa in Addis Ahaba and the
Economic and Social Council for Asia and the
Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok.

The United States is the site of the UN.
headquarters and also hosts the UN. Development
Programme (UNDP), the UN. Childrenis Fund
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FRIDAY, 26 MARCH 1993

FOREIGN MINISTER FAVOURS

NEW SYSTEM TO BRING

WORLD ORDER

by f 0192 Pi ml

Rome. Mar 23 (IFS) - The world, currently wracked
M political and human tragedies, needs a new
wt gem to guarantee peace using a permanent UN
L-Etdtt' force together with multinational forms
ofintert'ention. says Italian Foreign Minister Emilio
Colombo.

"Theworldis goingthroughatransitionphase
characterized by political and especially. human
tragedies." Colombo saidin an exclusive interview
with IPSV Tilt needs a new international system
capable Of guaranteeing peace and the rights of

peoples N

The so-called new world order, has not yet been constructed and will not emerge spontaneously. Colombo said. To achieve it, an endless number of obstacles and difficulties will have to be surmounted. Nevertheless, he believed that in the transitional (trottttr-ttted an Page. 2)

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