

## The 'Zero Growth' Future of South Asia

August 17 (IPS) — Recent events in Bangladesh fully confirm that the Rockefeller worldwide interests intend to permit massive starvation in the South Asian subcontinent. Monsoon floods now affect 30,000 square miles out of a total of 55,000 — over half the country is under water! The essential rice crop has been largely destroyed; loss of life from starvation is incalculable. The resulting breakdown of living conditions will cause outbreaks of cholera, further decimating the population. To date, no international relief organization, including the United Nations, has come forward with any significant relief operation. Bangladesh, like the African Sahel, is a casualty of the Rockefeller's "Zero Growth" strategy.

### Unnatural Disaster

A flood disaster of such magnitude is not the result of adverse "natural conditions." It is the outcome of decades of looting by the World Bank and other Rockefeller agencies, as well as an elaborate CIA counterinsurgency strategy for the region.

Offhand reports on the flood in the bourgeois press ignore the conditions which produced the disaster. Bangladesh, situated on the Bay of Bengal in the lower reaches of the Brahmaputra, Ganges, and Megna rivers, has the largest number of natural and manmade waterways of any area its size in the world — more than 3,000 miles. Its predominantly agricultural economy is completely dependent on a complex network of canals, embankments, and drainage spill channels, without which Bangladesh would suffer the world's most precarious flood situation, particularly in a rainy monsoon season. In addition, extensive rail and road transport is needed to facilitate the movements of foodgrains and agricultural inputs.

The collapse of this essential infrastructure accounts for current conditions in Bangladesh, in which tens of millions face starvation in the coming months. This is genocide. Only an analysis of CIA strategy for the region, especially the Bengali "liberation struggle" of 1970-71, can explain the dimensions of this disaster.

### A History of Genocide

After the partition of India in 1947, Bangladesh was the Eastern wing of Pakistan, with a jute industry which earned most of the foreign exchange for both East and West Pakistan. Few of these earnings went to East Pakistan's development, a fact deeply resented by the Bengalis. Worse, Pakistan's failure to follow India's

devaluation of the rupee in line with sterling in 1949 cut East Pakistan off from the jute mill industry in India's West Bengal. Substantial loans from the World Bank went mainly to projects in West Pakistan, like the Indus Basin scheme.

By the late 1960s, debt service looting was destroying East Pakistan's economy. One million tons of rice were lost in 1968, while two years later 200,000 died needlessly during a cyclone. Credit began to dry up. In September 1968 Robert McNamara suggested at a meeting of the World Bank Group that more "assistance" should be diverted to Latin America and Africa.

East Pakistan was ripe for socialist revolution. Seventy per cent of rural families owned less rice land than the "subsistence" level, and 20 per cent of the workforce outside agriculture was unemployed.

### A Revolution Betrayed

The CIA moved to harness and deflect the inevitable ferment. When workers and students began mass agitation in the major cities of Karachi and Dacca, the CIA intended to pull off a "progressive coup" led by People's Party head Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Bhutto had had CIA links since his days as a Political Science major at Berkeley.

The unprecedented wave of strikes that broke out in 1969 proved too much for the CIA to handle. A general peasant upsurge was sweeping Southeast Asia and West Bengal. In rural areas, Bengali peasants attacked landlords, moneylenders, and police. Demonstrations of students and workers virtually took over Dacca, forcing dictator Ayub Khan to resign. "Order" was restored only through the timely intervention of Sheik Mujib and his Awami League, which set up "peace committees" to co-opt the ferment into deadend nationalism. At this point, CIA planners favored Mujib as the "progressive" solution to the Bengali revolution. In 1970, Mujib won a resounding election success in East Pakistan. He opened negotiations for regional autonomy, but did not even call for an open break.

Pakistan's cretinous General Yahya Khan was assigned the "hard cop" role. Bangladesh had to be subdued. Mujib and other Awami League officials were arrested and safely locked away, awaiting their eventual release. Then the slaughter began. Overnight, Bengal's leftist intellectuals were rounded up and butchered by special hit squads. In October 1971, Yahya Khan or-

dered a "search and destroy" offensive against Bangladesh, one of the worst postwar orgies of terror and destruction. Aided by Razakars (Home Guards), Pakistani soldiers destroyed whole villages and committed random massacres and innumerable outrages against Bengali women. An estimated 10 million refugees were forced to flee to neighboring West Bengal.

The Indian Government made no move, fearing the effect that a socialist revolution would have on the mass strike in its own state of West Bengal. The Communist Party (Marxist) attempted to link the struggle in India with that in East Pakistan, but its efforts were frustrated by the ruling Congress party and the pro-Moscow Communist Party of India. The "Naxalite" terrorists in West Bengal, most likely CIA-controlled, killed hundreds of Communist Party (Marxist) cadre in this period.

The Bangladesh Mukti Bahini (Liberation Army) had no strategy except to ambush Pakistani units and to destroy supply lines in order to sabotage exports of jute and tea. In a matter of months, much of the revolutionary potential of the country was wiped out. Only when world opinion was overwhelmingly in favor of Bangladesh did India intervene. In December, a virtual

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Blitzkrieg by Indian forces caught Pakistan unprepared, and its "Waffen SS" was forced to surrender. A ceasefire was declared after only three weeks.

Shiek Mujib, previously known as "the Chiang kai-Shek of Bangladesh," returned to power as an im-

mensely popular "martyr" for independence. The entire vital transport system was in ruins. Export earnings, beset by significant losses in jute production, fell drastically. The war and the 1971 monsoon rains set back the rice crop severely when the country could least afford it.

The CIA had successfully subverted the Bengali revolution, and destroyed Bangladesh in the process. Mujib was unable to rebuild the economy. Bangladesh was allotted no significant concessions on trade or foreign aid. The political situation disintegrated as anarchist "Marxist-Leninist" guerrilla bands roamed the countryside. The recent monsoon rains have merely delivered the coup de grace to Bangladesh, the victim of Zero Growth strategy in South Asia.

### **Zero Growth, Mass Murder**

Recent reports by the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry indicate that 30 million people (50 per cent of the population) face immediate starvation. A grain crop of 3,200,000 tons has been washed away, as has 90 per cent of the rice crop for the summer and most of the jute production. Bangladesh requires food relief amounting to \$550 million. Yet it has only \$40 million in foreign exchange reserves, and the United Nations has come forward with a parsimonious \$2.5 million food donation.

Bangladesh is not an isolated misfortune. Rockefeller and his partners at the Federal Reserve have already decided that South Asia and much of the third world are to be written off as a "bad investment" in terms of any aid for further economic development. The outcome will be just as devastating as it has been for Bangladesh.

The only hope for Bangladesh is the International Caucus of Labor Committees' fight for a worldwide moratorium on capitalist debt and a crash program for the development of fusion power technology. Our studies show that within a few years of the implementation of this program, Bangladesh could feed and productively employ its whole population!