in developing sector nations.

Cargill has been pressing for intellectual property rights for its seeds in India, and has created an intense backlash among farmers who see the cartel's use of the GATT agreements as efforts to enslave them in a colonial system. Cargill marketed sunflower seeds and corn with promises of high yields in India, but when these were grown by local farmers, the actual yields were disastrously low, because the seeds were developed for other climate and soil conditions. Claiming private property rights for their seed, Cargill violated Indian law, which requires that any seed marketed in India be submitted to the government's seed bank.

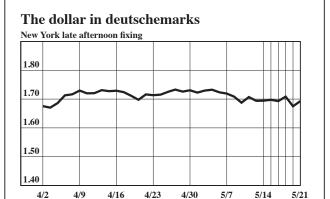
Cargill also gave to the Indian Council on Agricultural Research seed samples that produced good yields, but then sold some different seeds to farmers, using the claims validated by the council on the first seed varieties. Cargill also ignored recommendations by the council on which varieties were best suited to different Indian regions, promoting only one variety of sunflower and corn for use throughout the whole country. In 1992, when farmers got very low yields with these seeds, they directed their protest against Cargill, burning the files and the seed samples of the local Cargill office in 1992.

The next year, Cargill began building a seed-processing plant in India near Bellary, which the angry farmers' group demolished before its completion. Cargill decided to rebuild, but first surrounded the site with a fortress of high stone walls and guard towers, and pressured the local police to provide a large security force to protect them. The arrogant Cargill then refused to pay the local police the large bill for the extra security. Cargill's actions in India lead one to believe the cartel still thinks India is nothing but a colony under British Army occupation.

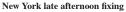
The cartel companies also deploy patents to prevent developing countries from using bio-engineered crops for export into the large American and European markets. Broad patents on all genetically engineered coffee that is made using a specific method are held by Escagenetics Corp. This patent deprived Ethiopia of using the technology on any coffee crop that would be exported to the United States. This cartelized strangulation of the "free market," is still getting worse, and more and more developing nations are being denied access to new technology.

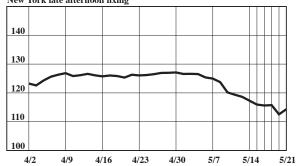
Finally, another interesting new phenomenon is the cartels' "bio-prospecting" (which clearly gives the lie to heartfelt appeals to protect "biodiversity"). In these cases, a cartel company will go into the Third World rain forests or jungles, to find plants that are used by the local peoples for medicinal purposes. The companies then take the plants back to the United States, and submit plant patent claims, which give them exclusive rights over the use of that plant in the United States. In this way, should any particular plant offer new prospects for medical treatments, the cartel companies will have chokehold control over them.

Currency Rates



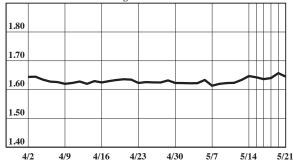
The dollar in yen





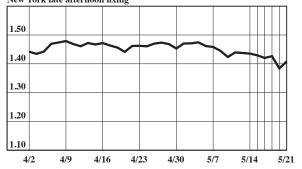
The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



20 Economics EIR May 30, 1997