

thing to do with bottlenecks. That doesn't have anything to do with transmission. What it has to do with, is the generating

community having a stranglehold on the Bush Administration and putting their foot on FERC to prevent the Federal Energy

Regulatory Commission from doing their job. Their job is to ensure that we have reasonably priced electricity."

III. Energy Crisis Means Farming Crisis: Fertilizer, Water, Power

Recent reports from farm organization representatives and agriculture inputs suppliers in Washington, D.C. document the worsening impact of the energy crisis on the food supply chain.

■ **Fertilizer.** On May 15, Glen Buckley, Chief Economist and Director of Agribusiness for CF Industries, Inc., one of the largest producers and marketers of nitrogen fertilizer in North America, gave testimony to the House Subcommittee on Energy, of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. Buckley presented graphics to document that nitrogen fertilizer plants, whose principal feedstock is natural gas, ran at an operating rate of 92% during all of the 1990s, but that during 2000, when gas prices soared, the operating rate fell, reaching a record low of 47% in January this year. CF Industries itself idled seven of its 12 plants in Louisiana.

The cost for a typical Louisiana producer of anhydrous ammonia (nitrogen fertilizer), went from about \$100 a ton in January 2000, to \$300 a ton in January

2001. In turn, this "also had a dramatic impact on fertilizer prices throughout the marketing chain, and in particular, at the farm level."

CF alone has typically supplied one-third of the anhydrous ammonia used in the Midwest farm belt, and one-fourth of the nitrogen fertilizer used in the United States. Thus, a "domino effect" from natural gas prices is occurring on the farm level.

Industrial capacity is shutting down permanently. "Of the 19 million tons of capacity in the U.S., approximately 1 million tons has already been permanently closed." Five million tons more could close within the next two years.

■ **California Farm Bureau Federation Representatives** gave a Washington, D.C. briefing May 7, to release a report prepared by their CFBF Farm Crisis Task Force, formed this past January. Calling the situation a "terrible crisis," spokesmen discussed the combined impact of energy costs and unreliability, severe water prob-

lems, and low prices for farm commodities.

They spoke of "skyrocketing energy costs," stressing in the first sentence of their 18-page report, that "Agriculture is energy-intensive." On electricity costs, they warned, "Accounting for announced rate increases, it is estimated agriculture's rates will be at least 30% higher this year than last, ranging anywhere between 13¢ and 24¢ per kilowatt-hour. These increases do not yet account for costs of procurement that must be repaid to the state." (These latter rate hikes were subsequently announced on May 15.)

The first chart in the CFBF's report showed that California's wholesale electricity prices went from \$7 billion in 1999, to \$32 billion in 2000, to an expected \$65 billion anticipated in 2001. The report also documents hyperinflation in natural gas, and in diesel and gasoline prices.

In comments to reporters present, the CFBF leaders said that in view of today's extreme crisis, the California Farm Bureau is "not necessarily" in favor of an hemispheric free trade zone, even though in the past the Farm Bureau supported the North American Free Trade Agreement. This straightforward policy shift shows the political changes now under way amidst emergency conditions.

The 'Anti-Globalization' Zapatistas' New Globalism

by Rubén Cota Meza

The Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) erupted onto the national political scene in Mexico in January 1994, with their declaration of war against the national government and Armed Forces, their proclamation against the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and their proposal to create autonomous Indian territories. That same month and year, also (supposedly) against NAFTA and for the autonomy of the "Indian peoples," the International Forum on Globalization (IFG) was founded in San Francisco, Cali-

fornia.

The simultaneous appearance of these two movements is no accident; they are closely linked. Indeed, the appearance and development of the EZLN is an outgrowth of the global network of radical terrorist and pro-terrorist movements included under the rubric of "globophobes."

But their connections can be seen more clearly, when one compares the IFG's declared statement of its "mission," with the structure of globalized economy into which the EZLN has inserted itself.

The founding of the IFG was financed by the Goldsmith Foundation of that Franco-British magnate of international ecology, Teddy Goldsmith, and by the U.S. multimillionaire banker and fanatic "deep ecology" activist, Douglas Tompkins. In the description of its "mission," the IFG asserts that its commitment is to achieve "equitable, democratic and ecologically sustainable economies," which are "based in locally controlled and much more diversified communities," through "the development of autonomous, regional and local

cycles of production and consumption based on renewable resources of energy and raw materials." They pledge to promote "the abandonment of the paradigm of unlimited economic growth which is blind to ecological limits," and "the recognition of the rights and sovereignty of indigenous peoples."

The mission of such global organizations is nothing more than a transcription of the ideas and proposals laid out in Teddy Goldsmith's 1972 book, *The Blueprint for Survival*, and *The Trap* by his late brother Sir Jimmy.

A New East India Company?

Beyond all the verbiage of Goldsmith's mouthpieces about autonomous regions in harmony with nature, and other such quackery, his far-flung network of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) has been rapidly weaving its own "new globalism": that of radical pluri-cultural ecogism, with its own productive apparatus, land holdings, financing mechanisms, and trading network. Mexican Zapatismo is one of the most recent fronts of this "global" economic structure, that has just begun to be identified.

In 1988, the Max Havelaar firm was created in Holland as a coffee-marketing channel for the Indian communities in Chiapas, Mexico. After 12 years, Max Havelaar now operates in 17 northern countries. Currently, 18% of the coffee marketed by Max Havelaar comes from Chiapas. The multinational also markets bananas, cocoa, tea, sugar, orange juice, and honey. "It all began with a 1986 call by the small coffee producers in Chiapas, to the European NGOs," in which they proposed that "receiving yearly donations [from the NGOs] would permit us to stay afloat. But to help us in a truly effective way, it would be more valuable to pay us a just price for the coffee we produce," said Víctor Pereira, director of Max Havelaar in France, in an interview with the Mexican magazine *Proceso* of April 22.

In order to participate in the marketing network, the producers "must accept that Max Havelaar experts will regularly control the finances, structures and organization of their cooperations, and apply cultivation methods that do not use fertilizers," Pereira revealed. In exchange, the marketing network guarantees them a minimum purchase price and "prefinancing" of their harvests, which could reach up to seventy percent of its cost.

Max Havelaar is only one of a dozen such European marketing NGOs of Trade Certifiers which, in the Spring of 1997, founded the International Organization of Just Trade Certifiers, according to the Max Havelaar/Sweden website.

Another marketer of "organic products" from Chiapas and other parts of the world is Transfair, which operates from Holland. In order to get consumers, they use terrorist-like methods of pressure and blackmail. The newspaper *La Jornada* of April 11, reports that "just trade" activists from the United States launched a campaign to "persuade" grain importers to increase their prices to producer cooperatives

from Mexico and other exporting countries. As a result, coffee exports from Mexican small producers went from 1.7 million pounds in 1999, to 4 million pounds in 2000.

Global Exchange, one of the organizations that participates in these campaigns, deploys on more than 50 universities and in various cities, to "pressure" coffee marketing companies. In March, Jorge Cuevas of the Rainforest Trading Company headquartered in Oaxaca, Mexico, went on tour with the backing of Global Exchange, to various universities, to "urge" students to "pressure" their academic institutions to sell organic coffee. Deborah James, director of Global Exchange's "just trade" project, commented that students from various U.S. universities "have obliged" these institutions to offer organic coffee. To date, their most important contract is with Starbucks, to sell Chiapas coffee in their 2,200 stores and cafés throughout the country, in addition to another 80 U.S. companies that offer the product.

However, Global Exchange not only certifies coffee that goes from South to North, but also "international observers" who go from North to South, to testify to the "liberation of territories" from military presence. The National Migration Institute reports that Ernesto Ledezma Arronte, representative of Global Exchange in Chiapas, was authorized to bring four Americans, two Canadians, and a Swede to establish themselves in the so-called "conflict zone," where the Mexican Army was dislodged from the military bases of Guadalupe Tepeyac and Río Useba last April.

'Chiapas Is A Mine': Marcos

In a letter to José Saramago, in December 1999, "subcommander Marcos" wrote that "the land here [Chiapas] is a 'mine'. . . . In the case of the Indian lands in Chiapas, the 'mine' contains oil. . . . In the area of Marqués de Comillas, in the Lacandona Jungle, reserves are estimated at 1.498 billion barrels of crude, in a 2,500 square kilometer area. And in the area of Ocosingo, it is believed there are potential reserves of 2.178 billion barrels, in an area of 5,550 square kilometers. In the early '90s, Petróleos Mexicanos (Pemex) was planning investments in the Ocosingo-Lacantún Exploratory Macro-Project, which includes Ocosingo and Marqués de Comillas, of 2.7 trillion pesos, at 1991 rate, which today is the equivalent of approximately \$1 billion.

"Thus, this 'mine' would have, at least, 3.5 billion barrels of oil. At current prices, these barrels are worth \$80 billion—that is, some 80 times greater than what was 'invested.' But the government's project is not to exploit these deposits, but to sell the whole of this territory to foreign hands."

So, it is to be assumed, that upon obtaining territorial "autonomy" and the right to enjoy the natural resources falling within those territories, through the reform of the national Constitution, or through a new Constitution, "Marcos" could become an oil magnate equal to George Bush. It is no mistake that President Vicente Fox calls Bush "my partner," and Marcos "my friend from *las cañadas*."