



How the bankers steal our heritage

James Gibb Stuart exposes the motives of the money-makers

In my *Economics of the Green Renaissance* (Ossian Publishers, 1992), I referred to the report of a remarkable meeting held at Denver, Colorado in September 1987. Under the imposing auspices of the *Fourth World Wilderness Congress*, and with a platform party which might have been uplifted in toto from a mini-session of the Bilderberg Group, this expensively funded gathering had been convened to consider a proposal which would be put to the United Nations, for a lien upon some 20 million square miles of Earth's untapped natural resources.

This was to be done by the acquisition and capitalisation of those virgin territories and their incorporation into a World Conservation Bank, which would thereby have acquired an assets base for the funding of all environmental projects, from mending of the ozone layer to replanting the rainforests.

David Rockefeller was there, so also was Baron Edmund de Rothschild and an American Secretary to the Treasury. It might therefore be assumed that the impressive get-together had not escaped the notice of the political and financial establishments, even though no note of the proceedings made headline news in any of the national dailies.

It took a lone reporter from *Money-Changer* of Memphis, Tennessee, to convey the facts to a wider audience. He revealed that the largesse of Rockefeller and Rothschild had assembled an audience of some 1500 conservationists from 60 countries, who were expected to be duly impressed by the scope and imagination of the international bankers' plans for rescuing the planet. Nothing, it was emphasised, would be too big for this ambitious WCB to handle. It would create its own currency and mastermind its own lending. It would effectively be the biggest bank the world had ever known.

Thirteen years have passed. We are now in June 2000, and the *Strategy* newspaper of Bendigo, Australia, through the hand of a local senator, is advising us that an expert from the World Bank and IMF has been sent to put a dollar value upon the wilderness areas of North Queensland, all with a view to organising an equity swap against the country's overseas debt. The idea had first been mooted when internationalist Bob Hawke was Prime Minister, and now it was happening. That World Bank economist was there to stake a claim on Australia's natural wealth.

So in the thirteen years since September 1987, the plans of the World Bank conservationists had progressed from blueprint to on site preparations. The concept of swapping for-

eign debt for a lien upon a country's resources had previously been proposed to Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines when that profligate dictator could no longer service his massive external debts. In his desperation, Marcos was allegedly willing to conclude a bargain on debt for equity, till he noted the phrase *in perpetuity* in the documents before him. He refused to ratify, and was promptly deposed in a wave of popular unrest.

Bob Hawke and his successors would not be so gallantly patriotic. They were apparently not unwilling that large tracts of their wilderness lands, the natural heritage of all Australians, should be consigned *in perpetuity* to foreign bankers.

On June 8th, a Fijian called Taina Woodward was speaking to a women's conference of the United Nations about the recent attempted coup in her Pacific homeland. She analysed the disturbances as stemming from a situation where generations of immigrants, mostly from the Indian sub-continent, had come to outnumber the indigenous inhabitants, and eventually impose upon them an alien culture.

Land, its ownership and uses, was a focal point of her dissertation. There was, she claimed, no word in the Fijian language to express the concept of a *land sale* as it is known to us in the West. The land was there for all, to be rented and utilised, but never to be possessed, as by one party dispossessing another. Fijians, she said, lived in a communal lifestyle which survived by sharing. It is not recorded how she and her compatriots would have reacted to large slices of their island territories being consigned to the ownership of the World Bank or the IMF.

The Fijian lady's perceptions were clear and unambiguous. *Possess a people's land, and ultimately you possess the people*. It puts a new interpretation on the concept of debt for equity, especially when the equity happens to be the means of living space and livelihood for millions of ordinary folk across the face of the globe.

In my pamphlet on the Green Renaissance, I touched upon the attractions for international bankers of that WCB with its lien upon 20 million square miles of the planet's untapped resources. I reckoned then that, with such an assets base, they could readily unload some of their own bad investments, *which has kept them hovering on the verge of bankruptcy since the Third World Debt Crisis blew up in 1983*.

The most ominous prospect for our own and our children's future is to have one powerful vested interest calling the shots, and orchestrating the decisions which shape society. One such power elite is the international banking clique which, for its own purposes, is seen to be actively pursuing its long-term aim of world control through a domination of global resources.

Its plans must be exposed and resisted, as must also be the callow compliance of politicians such as those Australian hacks who would apparently sell out their people's birthright for the perks of government office. The Fijian lady could teach them something.

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