

Covering email from Professor WJR Alexander:

Memo 16/08 Curse of environmentalism

When I started writing this Memo on Saturday I had no idea of its relevance to the tragedy that has since developed. There are two attached documents. I distributed the Out of Africa leaflet in Bali. It is highly relevant to the situation that developed here during the past week that is described in my memo.

I have no idea what the impact will be on international recipients. How can I persuade you that these real-life situations should receive more recognition than papers published in Nature or in the peer-reviewed literature? Which should interest readers most – polar bears in the Arctic or people being set alight in the streets of our cities?

There is a connection. Pressure is being exerted on the developing nations to undertake costly measures that will not only be fruitless but will endanger the alleviation of poverty that is the root cause of the disturbances. Memo 16/08

Curse of environmentalism

Will Alexander alexwjr@iafrica.com

Sunday 18 May 2008

[I completed but did not distribute memo 15/08.]

The whole climate change issue is in disarray. This is what Yvo De Boer head of the UNFCCC had to say two days ago. Source CCNet.

We need leadership on the part of the rich nations and money on the table that will make it possible for developing countries to do things that are not realistic within their economic growth and poverty eradication parameters. The trouble is that rich nations haven't really yet begun to think in a very concentrated way how the resources are going to be generated that will make the Copenhagen agreement work.

This is part of another report published in the Guardian of 16 May.

Britain's £800 million international project to help the poorest countries in the world adapt to climate change was under fire tonight after it emerged that almost all the money offered by Gordon Brown would have to be repaid with interest.

These were some quick responses.

The climate situation has not been created by us. The money should come spontaneously from rich countries and not be a loan.

A senior Brazilian diplomat was indignant that poor countries should have to borrow the money to prepare their populations for climate change. It should be grants and not loans,

otherwise developing countries would have to pay twice, once for the emissions that cause the problems, and then again to clean up the mess.

This is not money that is additional to Britain's aid budget. It seems strange to be cancelling debt, and then inviting poor countries to take on new debt.

This is crazy. Two years ago, cancellation of debt was one of the major issues for the developing countries.

The developed nations of the world are failing to put their money (i.e. their taxpayers' money) where their mouth is. With the world slowly sinking into a recession (nobody has called it a depression -- yet!) there is simply no way that the taxpayers of the developed countries will be persuaded to donate their hard earned cash for some suffering communities in Africa, on the scale required for poverty alleviation. Copenhagen will fail for the same reason that Kyoto failed.

The developing nations, including South Africa, should start looking after their own interests. In particular, we should ignore the small band of intellectually challenged malcontents in South Africa, who are trying to persuade us to "save the environment" by reducing those pesky greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power stations, heavy industries, motor vehicles and air transport. Fortunately, their attempts have become more amusing than serious.

The local climate alarmists are struggling to produce something new that will result in newspaper headlines. They dare not mention that the world stopped warming in 1998. If they did, even the dumbest readers will ask how the alarmists can claim that climate change is already causing environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity, while the climate remained stable for the past ten years. The international earth science conference held in Cape Town last week on this subject was only mentioned in one of the Sunday papers.

The following are some examples from an article in this morning's Sunday Times. The title of the article was **TICK TOCK**. I guess that the reporter had a sense of humour. This is where the whole climate change issue belongs.

Bugs, more bugs and a whole lot of rabbits. South Africa's world-famous wildlife could be a lot less exciting in the future due to the combined effect of climate change and human activity. That is the ominous message from some of the world's top scientists who gathered in Cape Town last week for an international earth science conference.

Parts of the country are expected to become wetter and others drier in the new climate regime, resulting in an almost certain drop in the variety of big animals to look out for. By contrast, there is likely to be an increase in the number of blood-sucking ticks and tick borne diseases. Concern about the declining number of animal species is fuelled by several recent South African studies. Research shows a likely drop in the number of Safari favourites like zebra, waterbuck and buffalo, as well as in smaller species like swallows, sunbirds and warblers. But the predicted increase in dry or semi-desert areas is good news for the other species, including the mongoose and the Cape hare.

Scientists believe there is now little doubt that human activities are largely to blame for global climate change. Recent studies show Africa is likely to be hardest hit. Unfortunately, many of the impacts of global environmental change are expected to affect Africa more severely than other parts of the world.

Climate change is likely to speed up "one of the greatest extinction episodes" in history caused by the combined effect of pollution, farming and urban expansion, overfishing and hunting.

Now notice what was not reported. Ticks have become more threatening than mosquitoes. This is because the predicted spread of malaria has not occurred. What about the big five? In particular, what about the elephants? The presenters quoted in the article must surely have known that the elephant populations have grown to the extent that they have to be culled! This omission is deliberately misleading the readers. It is not science. Claims of increased desertification and changing rainfall patterns are demonstrably false.

We are all getting tired of those unverifiable computer-generated predictions based on suspect science. Are we really expected to believe this nonsense? Would these alarmists dare to address a meeting in Soweto or Mamelodi? Why not?

The four-column photograph at the head of the article was a magnified photograph of a tick being held in a pair of tweezers in front of somebody's spectacles. Al Gore has photographs of polar bears. The Sunday Times produced a magnifying glass photograph of a tick as the main item of interest for its readers. Why not a photograph of an elephant? These are more visible than ticks. The answer is obvious. Refer to the following photograph that is doing the circuit on the Internet in this part of the world.



Which is the threatened species?

Tragedy

The five-column photograph on the front page of the Sunday Times was far more important. It was the photograph of a man who had been beaten over the head. His clothes were full of blood. The photograph was titled *MADNESS: this man, who said he was a Venda, was attacked this morning in Primrose, East Rand, by a xenophobic mob.* The following is from the introductory paragraphs of the article.

Early this morning a rampaging mob attacked people suspected of being foreigners in the in Makauze section, a squatter camp in Primrose on the East Rand. Fifteen shacks were set alight as live ammunition and flares pierced the air. The area was cordoned off by the police because it was too dangerous. The mob moved to Malvern looting shops in the area.

Since the trouble started in Alexandra last Sunday, 92 South Africans have been arrested for the attacks. Yesterday in Ivory Park, near Midrand, two Zimbabweans and a South African were killed when a mob burnt foreigners' shacks. In Thokoza on the East Rand, residents burnt Mozambican shacks. Diepsloot in northern Johannesburg was tense and uncontrollable yesterday as foreigners fled after another night of attacks.

Commentators in this evening's TV news warned that this rapid escalation in violence could get out of control if the cause was not determined and action taken to correct it.

These escalating developments during the past week are particularly painful for me. In the years immediately before and after the change of government in South Africa my two research assistants and I undertook voluntary work in Alexandra in order to try and improve the quality of life of these people in conjunction with the responsible authorities. Conditions then were far worse than they are today, but nevertheless, it is painful to note that these problems still exist. I will leave a full account for a later occasion.

All that I wish to say now is that this whole climate alarmism is a madness that we could all do well without. We can then get on with solving the real humanitarian issues of this country, and not be sidelined by all this environmentalist nonsense that is permeating our government departments and research institutions.

Dangers ahead

Given all the above, PLEASE pause for a while and imagine a considerable worsening of the situation that could start developing within twelve months from now and continue for the next five or six years. Imagine many thousands of near-starving people fleeing to the cities from their drought ridden homelands. There will be no job opportunities. Crime will be rampant. Mass protests will become ugly.

I have personal knowledge and experience of this in South Africa and neighbouring countries. I have produced commissioned reports. Most of them were confidential. Others had a requirement that I destroy all material used in the reports. What I can say with complete confidence is that the only way to prevent this drift to the cities is to keep the people on the land both directly for agriculture and indirectly by the establishment of rural mining and other industries. This in turn will require the abolishment of legislation that elevates environmental concerns above human welfare concerns. Read again the last paragraph of the Sunday Times article quoted above. The ONLY long-term solution is poverty reduction.

Finally, please refer to the attached copy of the circular that my colleagues and I distributed illegally at the UNFCCC conference in Bali last December. The third photograph is one that I took in Alexandra. The other two were taken by my son in northern Namibia. We were not welcome at the conference. Humanitarian concerns do not feature in the United Nations Kyoto Protocol and the Copenhagen agreement that is intended to replace it. The lives and livelihood of tens of millions of starving people on the African continent are at stake. Who cares? Certainly not the environmental extremists and the scientists who fail to express humanitarian concerns.

Latest

This morning's (Monday 19 May) newspaper has just been delivered. The front page banner headline is *South Africa's shame – 'war' in Gauteng*. The leading photo is of a man kneeling on the ground with his body in flames after being doused with petrol. I have included a scanned copy below. The Methodist church hall in central Johannesburg has become a refugee centre for immigrants from Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Malawi. It was also attacked by a mob. The bishop called for the proclamation of a national crisis and the mobilisation of the army to deal with it. The death toll is slowly rising. Hundreds have been injured.



One of several photographs in this morning's Beeld newspaper.

Where are those vociferous scientists who churned out newspaper headlines pleading for our suffering biodiversity now? They should be hanging their heads in shame.

Is it wishful thinking to believe that South Africans in the natural sciences will abandon their lucrative positions on climate change and organise a conference that specifically addresses the huge humanitarian crisis that is more likely to grow than subside unless calm heads get together to seek urgent solutions?

What about the looming drought? During the past two months I pleaded that my research predictions be evaluated by an independent body. My request was met by total silence. Or was it indifference?

These events are sure to trigger another wave of emigration. Who can blame them when there are no attempts to rectify the situation, and our scientists have their heads in the clouds figuratively as well as literally? I know that I have a lot of support in South Africa and internationally. It is now up to others to start taking action.

OUT OF AFRICA

WJR Alexander, Professor Emeritus, University of Pretoria, South Africa

The IPCC recommendations will destroy our continent.

Global warming fallacies:

- Rainfall is NOT decreasing.
- River flow is NOT decreasing.
- Tropical cyclones (hurricanes) are NOT increasing.
- Floods are NOT increasing.
- Droughts are NOT increasing.
- Desertification is NOT increasing.
- Plant and animal species are NOT under threat.

The priority of African nations is the welfare of their citizens.

African nations are suspicious of the motives of the industrialised nations of Europe.

Africa wants trade not aid.



Why is this young girl carrying her shoes?



Why do these children have no school bus?



This will be their future if the IPCC recommendations are implemented

