

of soaring diesel fuel and fertilizer costs, as well as the cutbacks in seasonal hiring.

Rockefeller mouthpiece Nakasone, head of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, has just released an 84-page "Direction for Japan's Industrial Structure," which lays out the ultimate fate of Japanese farmers. One-half of the industry of the main Tokyo-Osaka industrial belt is to be shut down and large parts relocated to present predominantly agricultural districts. Furthermore, agricultural import liberalization will be stepped up as part of an envisioned "new international division of labor." The once-heavily protected Japanese farming will now be wiped out, as resettled Japanese slave laborers instead are fed on cheap food imports from China and South Asia.

COTTON AND WOOL FARMERS BANKRUPTED IN WORLD TEXTILE COLLAPSE

Oct. 28 (IPS)--Cotton and sheep farmers world-wide are being washed under as the textile industry collapse drives their prices down 50 per cent from last winter's high. Cash-strapped fiber, yarn, and fabric producers have been forced to dump their inventories, thus furthering the collapse of prices offered farmers on the commodity markets.

The textile-apparel industry has been hit by Rockefeller's credit squeeze and plummeting consumer demand, as declining real wages force workers to cut back on new clothing purchases. Textile plant closings and layoffs are now spreading throughout the U.S., Japan, and Western Europe. Although local natural gas and coal "emergencies" often are used as an excuse for the closings, the world-wide character of the depression belies this cover story.

U.S. farmers have attempted to protect themselves by holding much of the large cotton crop off the market, taking out loans from the government Commodities Credit Corporation at the usurious rate of 10 per cent. In Mexico, where the incomes of five million people depend on cotton production, producers have called for the formation of an OPEC-style international organization of cotton-producing countries--an absurdity destined only to isolate farmers.