

lawsuits, is the result of an agreement reached in May between the Long Island Lighting Company and Mario Cuomo's New York State government.

Without Shoreham, said Herrington, New Yorkers face "a future of continued brownouts and higher electric bills for people who already have the highest bills in the nation."

"Making this situation worse," he continued, "is the fact that New York presently uses twice as much oil as any other state in the union to produce electricity, or six times the national average."

Herrington called for reform in the process of licensing nuclear powerplants, which delays them for years, and a focus on research in new nuclear technology.

## Drought

### Barge traffic shut down on Ohio River

Among the immediate effects of the drought in the Midwestern United States has been a shutdown of barge traffic from the Ohio to the Mississippi rivers because of the low water levels.

The barge traffic was disrupted when a tugboat was stranded by low water and blocked waterways at the point that the Ohio and Mississippi rivers merge. News reports say that up to 2,000 barges are idled as *EIR* goes to press.

The Ohio River is closed for an 11-mile stretch south of Mound City, Illinois. The Army Corps of Engineers is requiring barges elsewhere on the Ohio to carry reduced loads, in order to avoid foundering.

Lack of rain is also causing water levels to drop in the Mississippi and Missouri rivers.

Army Corps spokesmen have stated that even plentiful rainfall will not immediately change the situation, since the drought has been so severe that the first rains would only soak into the ground, not run off into the rivers.

Also because of the drought, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has granted emergency relief to 46 Iowa counties, but that will not be of much help to farmers, it

seems.

The government gave permission for "set aside" lands to be used for haying and grazing. Those lands were to be left completely out of production. However, these lands have been so devastated by drought that this is of only limited use.

Farmers in Ohio are feeding livestock baled hay, and are hauling water from afar, since wells are dry throughout their areas.

In the Columbus, Ohio area, corn, oat, and wheat crops are reported to be totally destroyed, and the soybean crop will be saved only if rain comes by the end of June.

## AIDS

### Rio researchers study links to other disease

The interactions between AIDS and endemic diseases are being studied at a government center in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

"Here at the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, we are going to orient our research toward the interaction of AIDS with Chagas disease, tuberculosis, and leprosy. The Chagas disease carrier can live infected for years without showing problems. But if his immunological system were infected by AIDS, the gravest form of the disease, which affects the heart, could show itself. But all this is in the phase of speculation," Dr. Galvao, chief of the foundation's immunology and virology department told the Rio daily *O Globo*.

Galvao said, "Our idea is to make a general survey of the AIDS virus existing in all regions of the country to determine if significant mutations occur. . . . We have still not encountered HIV-2, but this does not mean that it does not exist in Brazil. There is serologic evidence, according to Dr. Riccardo Veronesi, of the presence of that type of AIDS in Brazil."

Galvao said the studies, which are not yet funded, are urgent, because AIDS is beginning to be found in the parts of Brazil where the above diseases, plus malaria, schistosomiasis, and others are endemic. He will present his research findings at an AIDS conference in Stockholm in September.

## Briefly

● **INDONESIA**, hit by mounting debt payments, is proposing paying back its government debts to Japan at 1986 exchange rates, but Japanese officials said June 13 that the suggestion was hard to accept. Indonesian Finance Minister Johannes Sumarlin told a Japan-Indonesia conference that Japan should allow debtor nations to relay at a yen rate prior to the Japanese currency's dramatic appreciation. But Japanese officials said they did not believe this would be acceptable to Tokyo.

● **MALNUTRITION** takes the lives of about 14 million children under age 5 every year—if you credit China's claim to have eradicated hunger, according to a report in the *Baltimore Sun* June 12. During this decade, food consumption has fallen in 52 out of 114 Third World countries.

● **'GOING TO MARS** together [with the Soviet Union] has a fishy origin," writes Alcestis Oberg, wife of famed space scientist James Oberg, in the June 11 *Los Angeles Times*. Mrs. Oberg describes the Soviet offer for a joint manned Mars mission as "bombastic hype," and scores congressmen and others who have fallen for it. Its purpose is only to encourage the "peace movement" to get rid of "Star Wars."

● **TED SORENSEN**, the top adviser to the committee drafting the Democratic platform, wrote a book in 1984 calling for the United States to give up its sovereignty and accept IMF surveillance of the U.S. economy, to force through drastic reductions in the living standards of the American population.

● **THE LATIN** American Reserve Fund was founded in Lima, Peru June 10, three years after Peruvian President Alan Garcia proposed it. Its purpose is to strengthen balance of payments, giving credits or guaranteeing loans to third parties.