

the degradation of the banks' credit accounts can lead to big crises." The Spanish deputy premier, Narcis Serra, said for the first time that the government can no longer afford to wait until the world "recession" slackens off, but "we must fight these imbalances now . . . the entire society must be involved." Mussolini-style corporatism is in the cards, which he calls "a broad, urgent social dialogue" to find solutions.

Not surprisingly, and in parallel to the near shooting war going on between the French political parties as the Mitterrand regime decays into dust, Madrid is a brawling free-for-all. On Nov. 18, an instructing magistrate, Marino Barbero, ordered the police to raid the headquarters of the ruling Socialist Party (PSOE), to seize documents which PSOE officials had refused to hand over. The documents

relate to "irregularities" with respect to the financing of the PSOE by firms, among which Filesa, Malesa, and Time Export have been named.

Added to this, the same sort of destabilization launched in Germany has begun. A masked group broke into a hostel for immigrant workers, fired upon a group of lodgers, and killed a woman from the Dominican Republic. The premeditated attack was carefully timed so that the huge protest demonstrations of the Left, where tens of thousands went out in every major city, would coincide with the pro-Franco demonstrations which take place every year in Madrid and at Generalissimo Francisco Franco's tomb near the Escorial, on Nov. 20. The demonstrations at the tomb were much larger this year than before, perhaps 10,000 people.

Nothing being done to stop African epidemics

The World Bank has announced that it expects a decrease of the average life expectancy in Africa from 62 to 48 years. This shocking figure, blandly reported by the wire services, testifies to the inaction by international agencies in the face of epidemics sweeping the African continent.

At the end of October, the World Health Organization declared that it is giving up its attempt to eradicate malaria, and is now seeking only to contain the disease, Reuters reports. The WHO's new policy was adopted at a two-day conference in Amsterdam in late October. Malaria is probably the world's biggest co-factor with HIV for AIDS. Chronic malaria suppresses the immune system, and 1-2 million people die every year from malaria.

"Attempts to wipe out the mosquito carrier, pursued for 50 years with poor results, will be made only in areas where there is a realistic chance of success," the conference concluded.

Actually, the malaria mosquito was eradicated in many areas in the 1960s, and the rest of the world was on track to do the same through the use of the pesticide DDT, which saved millions of people from death. But the malthusians forced the ban of DDT in the United States in 1972, which immediately reversed the decline in mosquitos and malaria deaths. (See *EIR*'s cover story of June 19, 1992, "Save the Planet's Humans—Lift the Ban on DDT!")

It is only by 1995 that the World Health Organization expects to have accurate figures on the number of malaria cases. The conference heard that the malaria strain now found in Thailand and Cambodia is showing resistance to all the drugs widely available to treat it. WHO officials expressed concern at the lack of interest on the part of

western drug companies in finding new drugs.

In Africa, each year approximately 800,000 Africans, mainly the poor, are killed by malaria, the conference was told. Another 80 million Africans contract the disease, but survive. According to Alan Schapira, medical officer at the WHO, "There is an unfair accusation that things cannot get done in Africa because of disorganization. But even the toughest colonial-type administration, given the African ecology, would not get far against these [mosquito] species." Malaria is responsible for 20-30% of all deaths of children under five in Africa. The new WHO strategy is to focus on earlier diagnosis and fast treatment.

The continent-wide disease picture is amplified by the following news items:

Kenya: "If there is anything that could wipe out Kenya's population, it is AIDS," said Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi. He was quoted in German newspapers, in coverage of a dramatic increase in the number of people sick with AIDS. According to WHO figures, every 40th African is infected with the HIV virus, compared to every 250th person worldwide.

Zaire: By the beginning of September, 191 cases of plague (bubonic, pulmonary, and septicemic) had been reported to the WHO, and 78 deaths from the disease. This was reported in WHO's *Weekly Epidemiological Record*.

Tanzania: Since the beginning of the year, 4,279 cases of cerebrospinal meningitis have been reported, with 451 deaths. The number of cases has increased rapidly since March.

Burundi: The health minister of this East African country announced the closing of primary schools due to the meningitis epidemic. "The increase of the epidemic in only a few weeks is frightening," the minister said, in a national radio speech. In that period, more than 1,200 cases of meningitis have been reported, and 207 patients have died.