

## ENEMIES OF THE STATE

By Norris Hall

An "eco-scam" which has racist connotations and which is designed to keep this country and its people poor and underdeveloped, continues to be perpetuated by Sharon Matola, her white elitist connections abroad and a handful of foreigners in this country who continue to try to dampen the aspirations of an entire nation of Belizeans as we continue the struggle to pull ourselves out of poverty. These people, with their own agendas and hustles must now be put into our cross-hairs as enemies of this state. A draft resolution in opposition to the building of a new dam and hydro-electric facility to meet the development needs of this country was hastily prepared by Matola to daub this country at the World Conservation Congress which is will held in Amman, Jordan in early October.

The draft resolution is full of lies and half truths designed only to serve Matola and her other imperialist associates agenda in the name of environmental protection and to oppress the growth and development of this country. The move was made by getting another unknown gringo, John Meerman of the Slate Creek Preserve, to present, as a member of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), this twisted resolution against the Chalillo Project. IUCN's regional headquarters in Costa Rica informed us that this draft resolution was submitted "by an IUCN member from Belize but the status of that member was in question". This member, which is the Slate Creek Preserve, which was established by Meerman as an NGO, did not turn out to be the hustle he expected it to be. Meerman initially joined IUCN but did not pay his dues and also went on to discredit the organization. However he was seen as a convenient tool by Matola to push forward this draft resolution. When it backfired, Matola turned to her dear and cozy friend, actor Harrison Ford for support through his Conservation International Group, the National Resource Defence Council and Defenders of Wildlife, who paid for Slate Creek's membership fees, with arrears, to IUCN's Headquarters in Switzerland. But this time they choose to ignore procedures by passing the resolution through the regional group of IUCN members and submitted their resolution direct to IUCN in Switzerland.

There is still a question on whether or not the resolution meets the IUCN criteria. Besides, the regional members of IUCN are annoyed, and even insulted, over how these North American green imperialists ignored the established procedures for the IUCN Meso-America group to get the resolution on the table for the World Conservation Congress.

This is a move which is equally as bogus as the draft resolution and which the Government and people of this country should not entertain for it further underscores the subversive agenda of these expatriates who would rather see a poor country remain poor and to have us live in small ecological niches and self-denial, while they continue to fill their pockets at the expense of our natural resources and a tourism industry from which

we are virtually locked out, and enjoy "the horrors" (which they will not give up) of Western consumerism. It should be noted that despite their environmental admonishment, the typical gringo or Western European, will never abandon their heated homes, air conditioned cars, fast food, advanced medical care or any other similar material gains. But all of these have been achieved with some trade off to the environment. And now another fringe group is protesting genetically engineered food which could feed millions of bellies of hungry children in the poor developing nations of the World. But who are these people? They are all assured a three square meals in the round place every day. Their entire concept is that somebody else, or the non-white people in the Third World, should go without the conveniences of modern life.

The people from such organizations such as the Natural Resource Council (which happens to be in the pockets of Union Carbide which caused thousand of HUMAN deaths in California a few years ago), the WWF (and we know about them), and others in the north, hold to a philosophy that in their almost exclusive social order, the Earth's inordinate resources should be lavished on a privileged few with their energy squandering corporate jets, plush air-conditioned offices (no matter how much damage to the ozone layer), and the millions of cars contributing to pollution and the anti-pollutants which have been poisoning their population (ask any Californian) and all the other environmental evils and sins which is enough to keep them busy at home. The latest being the spraying the environment and people of New York, with its large multi-ethnic population with the insecticide Malathion, to kill the mosquito infestation in that city. The fact is that while these environmental groups continue to hustle such as the National Resource Defence Council and the rest of them continue their scare in taking big money from large corporations to preach and fight against Third World development, they will continue with their new brand of green imperialism.

Local businessman Barry Bowen, in an article which was last week widely circulated in the local press, declared war on the expatriates who are intent on hampering our progress through, their scares. He referred to the "Greenpeace" movement, which is losing members by the thousands because of their radical and irrational approach to environmental issues. A part of the environmental scare, as experienced in the debate over Chalillo (hydroelectric project), and the further attempts to have this country blacklisted internationally, is to make preposterous assertions, use bogus documents and wild distortions as a type of shakedown for money and fame. But what this will eventually do is to bring total and final destruction to a well meaning environmental movement, which conscientiously is intended to encourage us, as inhabitants of this planet, to live in harmony with nature and to use our natural resources wisely and for our prosperity the way the rest of the world has done, especially America in the past century.

Today's environmental movement at its extremes is a proxy for non-growth. The growth and development of Belize, on the other hand, are based on sustainable development for the benefit of all its citizens.