

World Bank as a simple initiative to give poor farmers greater access to arable land. The undeniable byproduct of such a project would be to undercut Tibetan territory and dilute the Tibetan culture.

It seems inconceivable that in the wake of NATO's air campaign to enforce human rights in Yugoslavia, the World Bank would fund an ethnic cleansing initiative in China. This is what the World Bank project would amount to if approved, however.

"In order to consolidate control over Tibetan areas, the Chinese government has undertaken a policy of moving Chinese citizens into these areas," 60 congressmen said in a letter to World Bank President James Wolfensohn. The project would "facilitate the Chinese government's destructive transfer policy." The administration, on the other hand, has failed to voice clear opposition to the project. U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said he was "inclined" to oppose it. He should try to incline himself to muster vigorous opposition.

The area in which the project would be carried out has the highest concentration of prisoners of any single county in China. According to John Ackerly, a spokesperson for International Campaign for Tibet, the bank would inevitably support prison labor by working in such a territory. The bank would have to depend on either prison labor itself or on goods produced by that labor, Mr. Ackerly added.

Not so, claims the World Bank. David Theis, chief of the World Bank's external affairs, said that local and provincial Chinese authorities assured the bank no "prison labor will be involved or benefit from this project." Somehow, these assurances are not comforting.

The World Bank is also accused of running roughshod over its own environmental guidelines to give the loan swift approval. The bank insists that it gave the project a rigorous environmental review, but circumstantial evidence isn't supportive. China, due to its economical development of the past few years, will no longer be eligible for loans doled out by the bank's International Development Association after July 1. These loans are typically interest free and paid over a 40 year period. Interestingly, the vote on the project was scheduled suspiciously close to the cut off date and the project's environmental review was conducted swifter than most.

Unsurprisingly, China is allegedly pushing hard to get the loan approved. Apart from the obvious economic benefits, the loan would effectively grant the regime an international rubber stamp of its relocation policy. The regime has threatened reevaluated its relationship with the bank if the loan isn't approved. The World Bank should make clear it is free to do so.

The bank has long been derided for aiding and abetting corrupt and spendthrift regimes. It surely doesn't want to be labeled the benefactor of ethnic cleansing campaigns. The board should vote down the project today.

[From The New York Times, June 23, 1999]

LOAN FOR A LAND GRAB

The World Bank's board of executive directors ought to reject a loan package to China that would be used to relocate about 58,000 impoverished Chinese and Hui Muslim farmers to a remote area on the Tibetan plateau traditionally inhabited by Tibetans and Mongolians. In the past, China has used migration policies to tighten control over Tibetan areas and to diminish the viability of the distinct Tibetan culture. The World Bank should not be in the business of financing this destructive scheme.

The Chinese Government has rejected criticism of the project and insists on going forward. But approving this loan may violate the bank's own guidelines for assessing the social and environmental impacts of its projects. Dozens of international environmental groups, Tibetan activists and 60 members of Congress have written to James Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank, to oppose the resettlement. The Clinton Administration also announced its opposition yesterday.

The ostensible purpose of the project is to give desperately poor farmers in Western China a better life. But this plan would move them from badly eroded land to a barren high-altitude plain, currently used by nomads, that is itself environmentally fragile. Even though the project would involve construction of a dam and extensive irrigation works, it did not receive a full environmental assessment. Nor does it appear that the plan fully complies with World Bank policies designed to protect ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples from the adverse effects of development.

The World Bank has worked hard to overcome its reputation for insensitivity to local cultural and ecological concerns. Approval of this loan would be a significant step backward.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BILIRAKIS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

BASEBALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, America has a long-standing fascination with baseball.

Perhaps only apple pie and the American flag can compete with its association to this country.

And with good reason.

Baseball, like many team sports, is beloved in part because of the unity it brings to our nation's communities.

Poet Walt Whitman once wrote, "I see great things in baseball. It's our game—the American game. It will take our people out-of-doors, fill them with oxygen, give them a larger physical stoicism. (It will) repair these losses and be a blessing to us."

Throughout times of hardship and strife, baseball has been a constant source of enter-

tainment and pride, on both a local and national level.

In towns and cities across the country, friends and family gather together to pull for the home team, play baseball together in their backyards, or gather around their televisions to cheer for their favorite players.

In the Third District of North Carolina, which I am proud to represent, a group of young men recently gave their community and the entire state a reason to celebrate.

The Rose High baseball team from Greenville, NC had an undefeated season this year, winning 28 games and capturing the second 4-A State title in three years.

These 29 young men embody the spirit of teamwork.

They have proven that with enough hard work and dedication, success is within the reach of every young person who dares to achieve it.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that every one of these outstanding baseball players can appreciate their victory.

But what they have learned on their path to success may be even more valuable than a perfect 28-0 season.

One of the greatest lessons that I learned growing up, playing team sports, is the ability to work together to accomplish a goal.

Playing baseball and basketball in school, I learned to work hard because I knew that my teammates were depending on me to always do my best.

This work ethic is something that I have carried with me throughout my life.

I use it now in Congress to face the challenges of working with 434 other Members of the House.

Sometimes we have disagreements, but our greatest successes come when we work together as a team.

The Rose High Rampant's have already mastered this lesson.

And all the while, they have let us watch and cheer from the sidelines.

Mr. Speaker, part of the enjoyment in watching these young men play and succeed is watching the families and the community that rally behind the players.

Baseball is a team sport and it instills a sense of excitement and enthusiasm to all that watch and participate behind the scenes.

Because of the community spirit that baseball inspires, when Rose won, we all won.

I salute the players, coaches, families, and fans that made this championship possible.

To the players . . . James Bengala, Jr., Kenneth Biggs, Jeffrey Blick, William Brinson, Ashley Capps, David Creech, John Finch, Brian Flye, Michael Gordon, Matthew Grace, Michael Harrington, Kelly Hodges, Dylan Jackson, John Landen, Vincent Langston, Jefferson Lea, Vincent Logan, Demond Mayo, Julian Morgan, Adrian Moyer, James Paige, IV, Bryan Pair, Justin Phillips, Robert Riggs II, William Teel, Reid Twine, Adam Tysinger, Joseph White, and Jesse Williams III.

Coach Ronald Vincent and assistant coaches . . . Paul Hill, Marvin Jarman, Steven Lovett, Ryan Meadows, and Eric Jarman and coaches, congratulations.

You brought together your community.

And through your dedication and hard work, you have made us all proud.

Thank you Rose High State champions for letting us share in your success.