

World Net News: Channel 265/General Interest/Level 9+ (transcript)

"Three million citizens of the Republic of Bangladesh watched their farms and villages wash away as early monsoons burst their hand-built levees, turning remnants of the crippled state into a realm of swampy shoals covered by the rising Bay of Bengal. . . ."

[Image of tear-streaked brown faces staring in numb dismay at the bloated bodies of animals and canted, drowned ruins of farmhouses.]

Viewer option: For details on cited storm, voice-link STORM 23 now.]

"These are the die-hards, who have refused all prior offers of resettlement. Now, though, they face a bitter choice. If they accept full refugee status, joining their brethren in Siberian or Australian New Lands, it will also mean taking all the conditions attached, particularly that they must swear population restriction oaths. . . ."

[Image of a pregnant woman with four crying children, pushing her frightened husband toward fair-skinned medics. Zoom on one doctor's hammer and sickle shoulder patch . . . a nurse's Canadian maple leaf. Members of the screening team wear kindly smiles. Too nervous to show resentment, the young Bengali signs a clipboard and passes under the tent flap.]

To read out specific oaths, voice-link REFUGE 43.]
 For specific medical procedures, voice-link VASECT 7.]

For consideration by the 112 million members of the Worldwide Long Range Solutions Special Interest Discussion Group [SIG AeR,WLRS 253787890.546], we the steering committee commend this little gem one of our members [Jane P. Gloumer QrT JN 233-54-2203 aa] found in a late TwenCen novel. She calls it the "Offut-Lyon Plan." Here's Ms. Gloumer to describe the notion:

"Our problem isn't too many people, per se. It's that we have too many *right now*. We're using up resources at a furious rate, just when the last of Earth's surplus might be used to create true, permanent wellsprings of prosperity. Projects such as reforestation, or orbital solar power, or [list of other suggestions hyper-appended, with appropriate references] aren't making any progress because our slender margin must be spent just feeding and housing so many people.

Samples from the "World Net" imagined by
David Brin
 in his novel *Earth*
 (New York, Bantam Books, 1990)