Gap Between Rich & Poor Nations Continues To Increase

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According to the UN Development Programme (UNDP) annual report on human development, the gap between rich and poor nations continues to increase. The report, released April 22, indicated that the income gap in 1990 was 1 to 150, compared to 1 to 30 in 1960. In the report's preface, UNDP general manager William Draper points out that a correlation between economic and political freedoms is generally accepted. Economists of the North push for trade deregulation and liberalization in the South and the East. Paradoxically, said Draper, advanced industrialized nations do not reciprocate, choosing instead to erect more trade barriers through time. Consequently, market access by the South and the East which could facilitate a narrowing of the income gap becomes evermore difficult. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 04/22/92)

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