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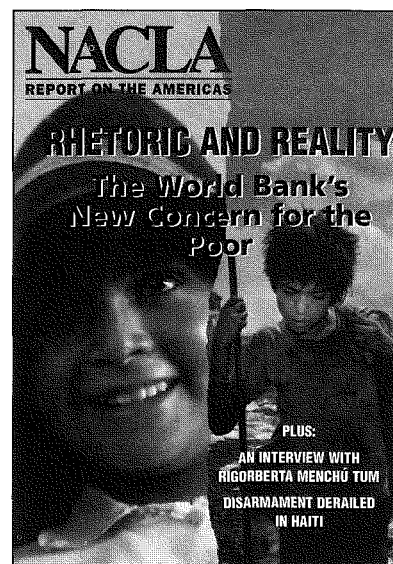
REPORT ON THE AMERICAS

RHETORIC AND REALITY

THE WORLD BANK'S NEW CONCERN FOR THE POOR

After years of spreading the gospel that the revival of economic growth would be a cure-all for the region's ills, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) now trumpet the importance of social programs to improve the welfare of ordinary citizens. Yet far from having an epiphany about the need to pursue alternative paths to social development, the multilateral lending institutions have developed a coherent set of social policies with the explicit purpose of shoring up free-market economics in Latin America. The North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA) critically examines this new social policy in "RHETORIC AND REALITY," the May/June 1996 issue of its bimonthly magazine *NACLA Report on the Americas*.

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