

Third World Might Not Welcome Global Market

To the Editor:

It was difficult to miss the irony of Paul Krugman's lengthy dismissal of globalization ("We Are Not the World," Op-Ed, Feb. 13) appearing in the same issue that had a front-page story on the World Trade Organization's upcoming ruling on the "legality" of the Helms-Burton Act.

Only a few years ago it would have been impossible to imagine the United States permitting a group of international trade technocrats to strike down an American law, much less a statute alleged to have national security implications. This appears to be exactly the sort of intrusive globalization that Mr. Krugman denies.

He seems also to have missed a number of disturbing developments in globalization technology. These include your recent report on the imminent and controversial launching of numerous spy satellites by several corporations (front page, Feb. 10). These "eyes in the sky" will now allow transnational corporations the kind of detailed global surveillance formerly available only to the superpowers.

The fact is that globalization is here, and new technologies and trade technocracies are providing it a growing political and technical infrastructure. Clearly, this globalization trend could profoundly undermine national sovereignty, as well as individual privacy. Denials like Mr. Krugman's will not make these inevitable problems of globalization disappear.

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