
POPULATION POLICY

Haig to write own Global 2000 draft

by Lonnie Wolfe

The White House has approved a State Department initiative to form an interagency task force that will produce its own version of the Carter administration's *Global 2000 Report*, a document which calls for the reduction of the world's population by some 2 billion people by the end of this century.

"There is a misperception that the Reagan administration has thrown the *Global 2000 Report* in the wastebasket," said a spokesman for the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). "The White House has no real problems with the report itself. There are some problems with some data, but that is usually the case with such reports. Global 2000 has been given a bad name unjustly."

The official proceeded to explain that the Carter administration document defined the need for population policy from an environmentalist and one-worldist standpoint. "Population control must be talked about with the appropriate free-market and national-security perspectives," said the official.

A similar point was made by a spokesman for the Committee for the Year 2000, the elite group of former government officials and prominent citizens set up earlier this year to promote the Global 2000 policy doctrine. "Global 2000 is like a beautiful, extinct bird," he said. "It can't fly in this administration. Not that its ideas are wrong. It just has to be reworked and resold."

"You can get people to deal with problems of overpopulation and resources scarcity if you make it patriotic," agrees one State Department official. This has been the approach, he said, of Henry Kissinger, who first established the population policy apparatus in both the National Security Council and the State Department.

The project is being carried out through the International Division of CEQ, which sent out letters to more than a dozen top officials of departments and agencies ordering their participation in an administration review of "global issues." The first meeting will take place in mid-November, at which point more personnel will be assigned to the project, and regular meetings will be scheduled.

Republican members of the Committee for the Year 2000 are working with the State Department and Council on Environmental Quality to launch the project. Most prominent in this effort are Russell Train, head of the Nixon Environmental Protection Agency and president of the U.S. branch of the World Wildlife Fund; and Robert O. Anderson, chairman of Arco and chairman of the board of the Aspen Institute, the think tank that launched the environmentalist movement.

Within government, the work will be concentrated within the State Department's Office of Population Affairs, headed by Carter holdover Richard Benedick. McPherson's AID will also be helping in the Global 2000 rewrite, as will the office of National Security Adviser Richard Allen.

A spokesman for the Committee for the Year 2000 reported that the main force inside State pushing Global 2000 and the point man for the project is Undersecretary of State James Buckley. "Buckley's the perfect guy for this," said the committee spokesman. "He works closely with Haig and has impeccable conservative credentials. No one could call him a one-worldist, environmentalist, or no-growther."

In addition, the project is known to have the support of the Treasury Department and David Stockman's Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

The IMF dimension

In his Oct. 14 speech, President Reagan stressed his administration's free-market approach to the developing sector. That means, he explained before the Philadelphia World Affairs Council, that the administration will seek to end all domestic food subsidies for developing-sector nations. Though the President presumably believes otherwise, this would cause a doubling and trebling of food prices and consequent starvation in many countries.

Behind that measure stands the administration's commitment to the conditionalities policy of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is responsible for depriving the developing-sector nations of the means for industrialization.

That point was underscored in conversations with aides to Meyer Rashish who boasted of their authorship of the Reagan North-South policy. Their goal, these aides insisted, is to force cutbacks in anything but labor-intensive projects in the developing sector. "We are seeking retrenchment of their economies," said a Rashish aide, reporting that the administration intends to pay lip service to the idea of "global negotiations," and even talk about the World Bank's proposed energy facility—provided the developing sector agrees to carry out those negotiations through the IMF/World Bank. The conditionalities must remain in effect, the aides emphasized.