

# The Arab Thought Forum

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*Mark Burdman reports from Wiesbaden on a pet project of Club of Rome co-founder Aurelio Peccei: brainwashing the Arab world.*

Under the guise of seemingly respectable academic discussions on population, food, energy, and other global problems, the same NATO-centered oligarchical grouping behind the Club of Rome International has set up a new sophisticated Club of Rome spinoff that is engaged in the destabilization of Arab countries.

This intelligence operation has been given the name Arab Thought Forum, and has also been known under the titles "Club of Aqaba" and the "Arab Group of the Club of Rome." It is being used to infiltrate elites in the Arab countries.

The networks behind the Arab Thought Forum, which might be more appropriately tagged the Arab Forum for Thought Control, are the same networks responsible for assassinations, terrorism, and so-called fundamentalism throughout the Middle East. These networks interface top drug-trafficking and dirty-money operatives within the Arab world itself.

Their modus operandi is to proliferate the ideology of Malthusianism and the *Global 2000 Report* of the Carter administration throughout the Arab world, thereby calling into question the legitimacy of governments and nation-states, and paving the way for Jacobin insurrectionary movements in the Arab countries. These operations are programmed to occur in conjunction with subversive actions run by agents of the British Secret Intelligence Services (SIS), the Israeli Mossad, and the Soviet KGB in the Arab world, against Arab aspirations for independence and development.

Overseeing this thought forum intelligence operation are the individuals who form the directorate of the Club of Rome International: Aurelio Peccei, Alexander King, and Edward Pestel, all with high-level NATO credentials. According to Arab diplomatic sources, Peccei has been working on the Arab thought-control project for several years, regarding it as his most important international activity, and of a piece with his related efforts to use a phony fundamentalist version of Islam as an instrument of subversion aimed against Arabs and against the western countries as well. For example, Peccei's "Islam and the West" project attempts to peddle the line that Khomeini's coup in Iran or the terrorist activities of the Muslim Brotherhood are religious phenomena. Peccei is

so intent on seeing his Thought Control Forum come into being that he has reportedly been trying to keep under wraps its extensive ties to the Club of Rome.

Peccei, with King and Pestel—the latter a top officer in the NATO Science Committee which coordinates technology restriction internationally—coordinated a 1980 meeting in Athens between Club of Rome officials and certain prominent Arabs out of which the Thought-Control Forum was launched.

In private discussions, King, a top officer in NATO's OECD Science and Planning Divisions in Paris, has corroborated that "we in the Club of Rome have become very close to the Arabs" through the Forum. Among King's own contributions to these efforts are spreading propaganda throughout the Arab world (especially Egypt) about the necessity of "population control" because of the "rising food bill" and encouraging the transformation of Jordan, whose Crown Prince Hassan is the chairman of the Thought Forum's board of trustees, into an "Arab version of Switzerland"—a highly suggestive effort in view of the recently documented Swiss role in extensive dirty-money and terrorism-support operations.

The activities of King and his fellow Club of Rome member Maurice Guernier in Paris in the direction of establishing the Arab Thought Forum have extended into the highest levels of the French government. According to Thought Forum Secretary General Malek Basbus, a nest in the Mitterrand government including Finance Minister Jacques Delors, Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, and European Community representative Edgar Pisani (a Club of Rome member) is actively supporting the Forum's work. Paris is also the hub of Forum activities due to the efforts of the so-called Club of Paris, headed by "Aquarian" ideologue Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, who has discussed extensively with Arab Forum members the idea of transforming the Arab sector into a model "information society," a code-expression for the creation of "1984" zero-growth computer-run societies headed by Club of Rome technocrats. Servan-Schreiber has won extensive support from the Mitterrand government for his brainwashing efforts, and has built up a large network of contacts in the Arab

world centered around the Forum group.

The first launching point for the Arab Thought Forum was an Athens meeting of June 1980, at which Arab representatives were brainwashed with Malthusian propaganda about food scarcity and the "population explosion." A secretive follow-up meeting along the same lines was held in Seville, Spain, in December 1981, at which Peccei, King, Pestel, and Guernier worked over an Arab representation of 40 prominent individuals. On March 15-16, a third meeting took place at the Rome-based International Bureau of Informatics between the Club of Rome and the Forum on the subject of "Agriculture," i.e., "food scarcity" and "overpopulation." The Forum intends to come into its own in the public eye in May with a major conference in Amman, Jordan, on "Euro-Arab Dialogue," which will be attended on the European side by representatives from the Club of Rome, from London's Royal Institute for International Affairs, from France's Institut des Relations Internationales; and from West Germany's Forschungsinstitut der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik. The last three are respectively the British, French, and German counterparts of the New York Council on Foreign Relations.

### **A Global 2000 for the Arab world**

As it is now constituted, the Thought Forum has as its board of trustees chairman the Crown Prince of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Hassan, brother of King Hussein. Hassan is known for his advocacy of "appropriate technologies" for the Arab world and as the key figure within Jordanian ruling circles sympathetic to the Muslim Brotherhood.

The vice-chairman of the board of trustees is Kuwait's Minister of Planning and Finance, Abdel-Latif al-Hamad. Al-Hamad also sits on the board of the "mother" institute of the "appropriate technologies for the third world" ideology, the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Sussex in Great Britain, and is a member of the Socialist International elite Brandt Commission.

Official Thought Forum documents specify that the Forum's purpose is "dealing with the developmental dash that shows no sign of abating." The Secretary-General of the Forum, Malek Basbus, a Lebanese by birth who operates out of Paris, has best described the ideologies and goals of the Forum. In a discussion from his Paris headquarters, Basbus asserted forthrightly that what is needed is for the Arabs to "replicate the work of Global 2000 for the Arab world" and to replace "the ridiculous idea of the nation-state" with the Club of Rome's models for "regional blocs."

Many prominent Arabs have been roped into cooperating with the Thought Control Forum, in some cases perhaps unaware of its true purposes. Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Zaki Yamani, for example, who has other-

wise been associated with the pro-development factional grouping in Saudi Arabian ruling circles, has reportedly been active in Forum planning and policy discussions. A glance at the group's current board of trustees reveals an array of ministers (current and past), businessmen, and journalists from throughout the Arab world. According to Basbus, other active members, collaborators, and/or co-thinkers of the Forum include the Syrian Minister of Planning, the Kuwaiti Minister of Agriculture, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, and the head of the Khartoum-based Arab Agricultural Authority for Investment and Development.

### **The Dope, Inc. link**

Based on ongoing *EIR* investigations, it appears more than likely at this point that most of the relevant infrastructure, financial and otherwise, for the Thought Forum has been provided by drug-trafficking-related circles in the Arab world.

For instance, one of the members of the Forum's board of trustees, banker Elias Saba, was formerly with Intrabank, the entity closed down in 1971 for involvement in international smuggling activities. The Intrabank group completely overlaps the Beirut-based Casino du Liban, a pulse-center for crime and drug-trafficking throughout the Middle East with tentacles extending into Western Europe.

The Intrabank connection also operates through the Albanian-born Sheik Kamal Adham, the former Saudi director of intelligence (sacked in 1979 for support of the Carter administration's Camp David Treaty), who sat on Intrabank's board of directors until its closing. While not yet an official Forum member, Adham had held at least one extensive discussion with Basbus about the Forum and is described as "very much interested" in its work. One of Adham's associates, the Egyptian-born financier Roger Tamraz, is a member of the Forum and the Arab group of the Club of Rome. The head of the well-connected First Arabian Corporation, Tamraz has had as one of his pet projects a series of speculative ventures on the Nile Delta.

The banker Zuhair El-Harb, a top figure in the Triad Corporation empire of the dirty-money-connected Adnan Khashoggi, and involved with the Suez group of banks and the Paris-centered Saudi-French Bank, is presently a Forum member.

Finally, Arab diplomatic sources have specified that one of the motivating individuals behind the Forum in direct collaboration with genocidalist Peccei was the Saudi "iceberg prince" Mohammed al-Faisal. From his "Islamic" banking interests in Geneva, al-Faisal has started a number of projects in the United States and elsewhere that have been little more than fronts for terrorism and related activities under a Muslim Brotherhood banner.