

China's crazed population policy spurs Western backing for Beijing

by Mary McCourt Burdman

Monstrous though the greed of Henry Kissinger is, it is only one reason why those in power in the United States and Western Europe, and in such supranational organizations as the United Nations, have done next to nothing to oppose the Communist regime in the People's Republic of China which murdered some 10,000 people in June. A more fundamental reason is that the octogenarians in Beijing are such committed malthusians. P.R.C. policy on population, economic crisis, and "environmental pollution" is a hideous reflection of the policies espoused every day by such entities as the Green Party, Environmental Protection Agency, or World Wildlife Fund in Europe and America, made far uglier by China's desperate poverty.

Western support for the Chinese malthusians continues unabated. The operations of the U.N. Fund for Population Activities inside China suffered only a "slight disruption" due to "the events of late spring," an officer of the Asia Division of the UNFPA in New York City told the author Oct. 12, using the usual euphemism in such circles for the wanton murder of up to 10,000 unarmed civilians in Beijing and other cities by troops in June 4 and the following days. "Certainly the action program" is being continued, the officer said, "and as a matter of fact, a new five-year program has just been approved." The only shift in the UNFPA program, which is the biggest single outside donor to China's population program, notorious for its strenuous enforcement of an insane one-child-per-couple policy, is that emphasis will be changed from import to local production of "commodities" (contraceptives). Of course, that might be good news for all those Chinese who abhor the one-child policy: If Chinese contraceptives are anything like other products, the number of pregnancies should surge. Otherwise, delivery of services and 10% of China's birth control funds will go on.

The fact that China's birth control program is based largely on crazy eugenics policies, is not of issue, the UNFPA officer said: "We are a neutral organization, and do not interfere into governments' policies."

China's State Family Planning Commission gets other cooperation from the West. The SFPC announced in Febru-

ary 1988 that China is starting a "nationwide survey on fertility and birth," the official *China Daily* reported, because the commission was alarmed that the birth rate was not dropping as drastically as planned. Births increased 18% in 1986 over 1985, and another 10% increase in 1987.

Statistics Sweden, the national statistics bureau of Sweden, offered its help to modernize China's archaic system of controlling the reproductive cycle of every woman in the country. Statistics Sweden, the oldest national statistics bureau in existence, and the Chinese State Family Planning Commission reached an agreement to "cooperate" on building a computer system for "monitoring the Chinese family planning program." Work was "temporarily discontinued from June 5, due to the situation in China [emphasis added]," the Swedish bureau said in its report for the second quarter of 1989, over the objections of the Swedish Foreign Ministry, which wanted all aid projects to China to continue after the Tiananmen massacre.

The purpose of the project is to make it easier for the Chinese State Family Planning Commission to track every pregnancy in China. A statement from the SFPC as recently as Oct. 27, 1988, announced that the Swedish-Chinese project was being done "in accordance with the instruction of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China that 'family planning departments should strengthen investigation and study and scientific projection in order to gradually perfect the family planning policy and measures.'" Both the Chinese Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Public Security are behind the project, which is to include all of China by 1992. One purpose in developing the computer system, Statistics Sweden reported in September 1988, "is to be a tool for monitoring the family planning situation continuously."

The Chinese authorities are particularly afraid of the chaos which is breaking out all over China as the economy collapses. One critical focus of the study is to determine "the fertility situation of the daily increasing floating population under the present circumstances of urban and rural economic structure reforming." Experts estimate that there are some

100 million in the *manu liu*—*manu* is blind, *liu* is current—an army of unemployed, homeless people, wandering from city to city and province to province, seeking work.

There were some objections in Sweden to the project, a Statistics Sweden staff member told the author Oct. 9, because of China's eugenics policies, but they did not stop the project. But eugenics is a live policy in China. In November 1988, China's official *People's Daily* announced that the impoverished northwestern province of Gansu has enacted a law to sterilize tens of thousands of mentally handicapped women. Later, a senior health official in Beijing announced that a similar law was now being drafted to expand the ban on births to the entire nation. The *People's Daily* proclaimed that the Gansu law would "raise the quality of the population" and help the province out of its poverty. One report from Statistics Sweden states that troops staged amateur plays in the city of Chengdu in October to publicize family planning. While most emphasized that girls should be worth as much as boys, "some troops from remote areas of Sichuan [province] stressed eugenics subjects."

Deng's reforms: Reduce population

It is the "reformer," supreme Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping—the man whom President George Bush called an "old friend"—who has been successful in controlling the Chinese population, though not—so far—as successful at outright murder as his predecessor Mao Zedong, although Deng always professed himself a loyal follower of "Mao Zedong Thought."

The Communist Party of China has killed 80-100 million people in its brief history this century, most under the rule of Mao Zedong. According to recent statements by exiled Chinese investigative journalist Liu Binyan, not 10-20 million, but 43 million people died of starvation during Mao's "Great Leap Forward" in the late 1950s. At least another 10 million were killed in the Cultural Revolution holocaust a decade later, during which conditions were so desperate, one commentator well acquainted with the history of communism in China reports, that peasants used the rotting corpses for fertilizer and gave their chickens maggots feeding on the corpses' flesh as feed.

Deng's policies are barely more civilized. As the champion of population control in China, his policy is to prevent children from being born. Population control was "neglected" by Mao in the chaos of the 1950s and 1960s, Harvard China-watcher Roderick MacFarquhar said in July, and was only begun seriously in the 1970s, when Deng came to power. Under Mao's rule, the population nearly doubled in 30 years.

Deng's government set its policy to *reduce* China's population by at least one-third—300 million people—within the next century, at a meeting in February 1981, *EIR* reported in March 1982. They arrived at this number by determining how many people China's land, water, and other resources could support, *if China remains a primarily peasant country*

for the next 100 years, and this would be only 650-700 million people. China has remained a peasant country. In 1949, the population of China was 80% peasant and only 20% urban. Today, 40 years later, the same primitive conditions prevail: China's peasant population is still four times the size of its city dwellers.

Almost a decade of "reforms" later, in January 1988, Prime Minister Li Peng announced that family planning will remain a basic state policy, in the starkest malthusian terms. "Without family planning, an additional 200 million people would have been born, calculated according to the natural growth rate of 1970," Li said. "If we do not exercise population control . . . the wealth gained from productive development will be offset by the population increase." What productive development? Li has since endorsed the "environmentalist" excuse for ending costly investment. In May, he gave the keynote speech at the Third National Conference on the Environment, stating that "Economic and administrative measures must be taken to limit the development of industries or products that consume a lot of materials and energy, [and] cause serious pollution. . . . We do not approve of short-sighted behavior that pursues economic development at the cost of the environment. Such behavior must be curbed firmly."

Destroying the family

The real "reform policy" was the draconian one-child-per-family law enacted in 1980. This law is intended to destroy every pillar of Chinese society, in which the family is seen not only as the basis of social order, but the key to the individual's immortality—in the sense that people continue living on through their children and grandchildren—which is the positive essence of so-called "ancestor worship." How determined the Communists are to undermine this fundamental conception of individual and social worth, is shown in the recent attempt by the Communist government to persuade the Chinese that graveyards are a "waste" of scarce land, and that individual burial should be stopped.

Beijing is actually conducting a "major education campaign" to get people to give up traditional burial and use cremation instead. The nominal reason is the lack of land. Burials last year took up 2,500 hectares of land, the *China Review* reported in its September 1989 issue, and 1.2 million cubic meters of timber was used for coffins. "The Party knows that convincing the people to switch from burial to cremation is a formidable task that can be fulfilled only by eliminating China's long history of feudalism and deep-rooted conventions," Civil Affairs Ministry official Liao Hui told the *China Daily* in September. One example of such "feudalism" was one farmer outside Beijing, who said, "Burial is a good way to show the respect of the living for the dead."

Civil Administration Bureau director for Beijing, Fan Bitian, told a Western reporter recently, "We Communists are atheists, we do not believe in God. But feudalistic-minded

people believed in an after-life," and hence buried their dead and offered sacrifices to heaven.

One of the government's main objections is the cost of the burials, because impoverished households spend 9% of their miserable income on weddings, funerals, or festival gifts to relatives. But, given the crisis situation in China, the government is "going slow," the *China Review* reported, trying to prevent the recurrence of cases in which local officials, trying to meet regulations, dug up already buried corpses to have them cremated.

The policy is not new. When the People's Liberation Army marched into Beijing in 1949, the new government immediately ordered the 110,000 tombs in downtown Beijing emptied and the corpses cremated in the crematorium built by the Japanese occupying forces—the only one in the city. Since then, municipal officials have imported crematoria from Czechoslovakia, and two were built with great fanfare in Beijing.

Besides, Fan Bi-tian concluded, "earth burial will lead to environmental pollution and water pollution."

'Population out of control'

Already on Sept. 23, 1986, the sixth anniversary of the formal adoption of the one-child policy, the official *Health News* editorialized that the program was a "long-range strategic principle policy. It is the wrong idea that there is no need to stress the policy since China's economy has developed."

By January this year, officials were alarmed enough to launch another public birth control drive. Several thousand people gathered in the Great Hall of the People Jan. 12 to hear Vice Premier Tian Jiyun and Beijing Mayor Chen Xitong—one of those who demanded the Tiananmen massacre June 3-4. Chen blamed China's low per capita output on population problems. Grain production per capita is only 390 kilos, and per capita output is much lower than "many other countries," Chen said. If population is not controlled, "the new riches produced every year will be used up by the new babies, and the population pressure on resources will intensify," he said.

A *China Daily* editorial Feb. 4 called for putting population control—and environmental protection—among the very top priorities of the People's Republic as the new lunar year, the Year of the Snake, began. After Deng's "reforms," China's second priority is "family planning and population control." China's population will exceed the "staggering figure of 1.1 billion" within days, and with many peasants still having more than one child, the paper wrote. "The enormous population has added to the shrinkage of forests, arable land, water, and virtually all other resources." Mines are being worked without adequate "regeneration of the ecology."

The same month, Minister Peng Pieyun of the State Family Planning Commission announced that "various localities must strictly implement the policy of one child per family and no children to women under 20, and allow no variations or exceptions. We should consider the task of

ending multiple and early childbirths our major priority." She complained that while city women have generally complied, in the countryside the "overwhelming majority of women" have more than one child. She called for extending the policy of not allocating farmland to new children, and revealed plans for a new family planning law, the Beijing Domestic Service reported Feb. 21.

By April 14, the day that the government estimated China's population reached 1.1 billion, the P.R.C. held a "National Day of Mourning." Newspapers printed warnings of national disaster and Communist Party officials told the population they would starve if the "baby boom" is not brought under control. Vice Premier Tian Jiyun announced that the nine-year-long "one couple-one child" program was a failure. The *People's Daily* is warning that if the current birth rate of 20.7 per 1,000 were to continue, it would bring "calamity to the entire Chinese race." An earlier editorial in the *Economic Daily* Jan. 10 said: "For the sake of the Chinese race, and to prevent the tragedy of the population explosion, let us wake up from our apathy. Experts say that average personal income will fall 10 yuan (\$2.70) for every increase of 10 million in population. If our targets are significantly breached, the economic and social pressures will be all the greater and there will be no hope of national modernization. Population is already putting heavy pressure on the environment. Our forests are being destroyed, grasslands are deteriorating, soil being eroded, land becoming desert, fresh water becoming daily scarcer and pollution worse."

Because of these insane malthusian programs, China is facing demographic disaster. The leader of one women's group predicted that, as a result of the one-child policy, China could have some 40 million more men than women in 20 years. Women's Federation official Tang Leng said, according to Chinese newspaper reports in early September, that female infanticide was continuing because people want male children, and the result would be an overwhelming majority of young men in the very near future. Chinese society is going insane. There are so few young women already, that families with sons are actually *buying* little girls from parents who want to attempt to have a son, to bring up as a future wife for their son.

In addition, millions of children are relegated to life in the "black" underworld. Since the early 1980s, Beijing's attempts to enforce the one-child law have included punishments ranging from denial of food rations, schooling, medicine, and even identity cards to second and third children, to forced abortions as late as the eighth month of pregnancy. Yet in defiance of the Communist Party, people kept having children. The number of unregistered children in China, according to the *Shanghai Youth News* this summer, is over 60 million. In the city of Taian in the north coastal province of Shandong, family planning officials offered an amnesty on fines if these "black children," as they are called, were registered. As a result, 68,674 children came out of hiding.