

EIR

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LaRouche Triangle plan is the talk of Prague
Harvard study: sanctions killing Iraqi children
Soviets confess on KAL downing; EIR was right

**Uproar breaks out over Bush's
mass sterilizations in Brazil**



WHY

The British Establishment Fears Lyndon LaRouche

Books authored by Lyndon LaRouche and associates

In Defense of Common Sense, by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., Schiller Institute, 1989, 110 pages, \$5. Order number SIB 89-001.

The Power of Reason: 1988, an autobiography by Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr., *Executive Intelligence Review*, 1987, 331 pages, \$10. Order number EIB 87-001.

So, You Wish to Learn All About Economics? by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., New Benjamin Franklin House, 1984, \$9.95. Order number BFB 84-003.

How the Nation Was Won, America's Untold Story 1630-1754, by H. Graham Lowry, *Executive Intelligence Review*, 1988, 497 pages. Order number EIB 88-001.

Derivative Assassination, Who Killed Indira Gandhi? by the editors of *Executive Intelligence Review*, New Benjamin Franklin House, 1985, 266 pages, \$4.95. Order number BFB 85-007.

"We Americans, in our majority, are now caught asleep, unprepared for the terrible crisis now assaulting the very existence of our nation. . . . To where do we turn, on very short notice, for a different political perspective, a different philosophy of policy-shaping? All we Americans have immediately at hand is the sleeping nationalist heritage embedded in our bones over more than twenty generations—the heritage of the eighteenth-century, worldwide American Revolution, and of the proximate predecessor, the Golden Renaissance. . . . I am the voice of the Golden Renaissance, in my role as a defender of our American Revolution. It is time for all true patriots to awaken and to join me."

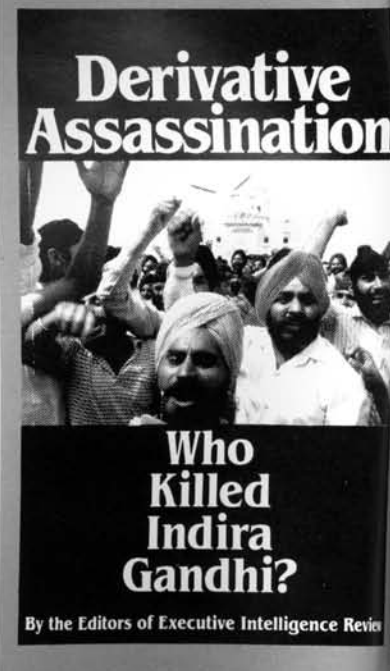
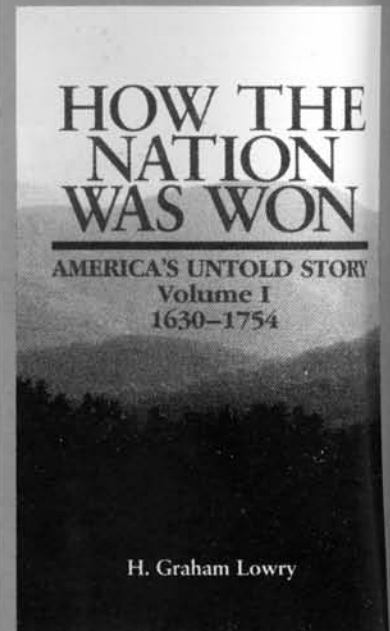
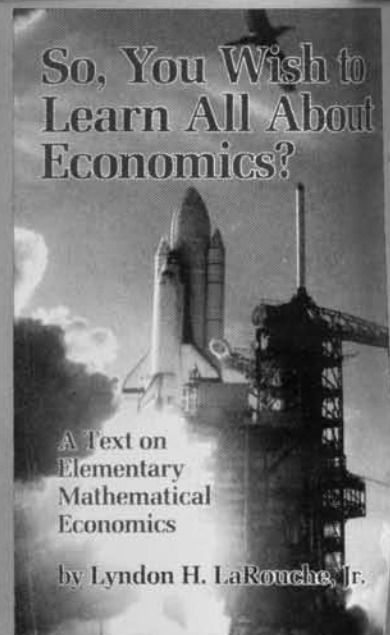
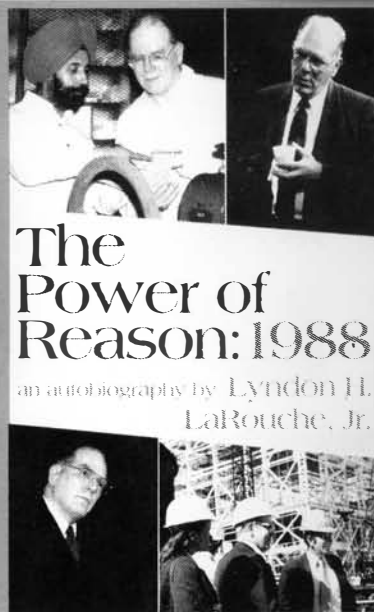
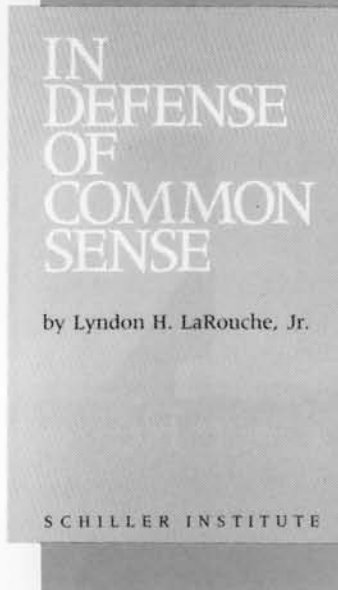
—Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.,

from "The Great Crisis of 1989-1992, The LaRouche Congressional Campaign Platform."

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From the Managing Editor

‘It looks like it’s going to be an avalanche,’ said a veteran Brazilian political analyst, in reference to the scandal that has broken out over EIR’s exposé of the secret U.S. plan, hatched during the Kissinger era at the National Security Council, for curbing the growth of non-white populations in political target countries like Brazil. EIR’s report, the subject of a recent cover story, has scored a bull’s-eye. Just at the point that the Anglo-American oligarchs thought they had everything set to usher in their malthusian new world order, all hell broke out in Brazil. The House of Deputies is launching an investigation, including into charges that mass sterilization of millions of Brazilian women has *already* been carried out, under the guiding hand of the international malthusian organizations.

In our cover *Feature*’s report on this story, note especially the powerful speech by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, which outlines the philosophical grounds for the Catholic Church’s position in defense of human life.

Another intervention by contributors to this magazine is the conference of the Schiller Institute in Prague, on the subject of Lyndon LaRouche’s plan for a European Productive Triangle. The conference, addressed by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, intersects a vital national debate in Czechoslovakia over economic policy, in which the monetarists are attempting to implement a free trade policy on the Mexican model, and a “shock” austerity policy on the Polish model. On the other side, are those who reject both Marxism and liberal capitalism, and are listening closely to the recommendations of LaRouche and of Pope John Paul II.

A third important initiative against the “new world order” was the press conference in Bonn on June 6 of the Committee to Save the Children in Iraq, a new international coalition. In support of the committee’s efforts, rallies and demonstrations were held around the world, calling attention to the genocide being perpetrated against Iraq’s children. For documentation of the real situation in Iraq, see the report of a Harvard University team on pages 18-21. We also have a guest commentary on the effect of the Gulf war on the economies of Third World countries (pages 15-17).

Susan Welsh

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Feature



Baltimore, 1984: Civil rights leaders joined LaRouche presidential campaign activists for a demonstration against the mass sterilization of poor women in Brazil, implemented through a secretive Johns Hopkins program. Today, the protest against the U.S. government conspiracy behind that policy is spreading all over Ibero-America.

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LaRouche warns, G-7 summit bodes catastrophe for world

Soviet party boss Mikhail Gorbachov, it seems, has obtained the invitation he so desired to the July 14 summit meeting of the Group of Seven industrial countries. Thereby, also the question of what is idiotically called "aid" for the collapsing Russian empire has been put full-square in the middle of the summit's agenda. Now, expect the preparations for the summit to move center-stage internationally, and the chorus to take up the chant and counter-chant: Should or should not, the Russian demands be acceded to?

Lyndon LaRouche, George Bush's "Man in the Iron Mask," addressed this from his jail cell in Rochester, Minnesota, in presidential election campaign statements issued May 30 and 31. LaRouche warns, against the media propaganda that is beginning to build up, that whatever happens at the G-7 summit, the result is going to be a catastrophe.

LaRouche identified two alternatives: "George and his friends in London might come out looking as if they won the victory—that is, as if all the opposition had been crushed. But that doesn't do much for us, because if George Bush succeeds, then he puts his program into effect. If he puts his program into effect, it fails—and we have a miserable catastrophe. Otherwise, the allies, such as Japan and West Germany and others, may put their feet up against the wall and refuse to budge on a couple of issues. In that case, George Bush will get very frustrated, and that will be a catastrophic failure."

What is overlooked, is the reality of world economic depression and breakdown. Vice President Dan Quayle unwittingly put his finger on the nub of the matter, while touring Hungary recently. There's no way, he told reporters, that American taxpayers are going to come up with the money to bail out a bankrupt system. He was talking about the Russians. But that is exactly what the U.S. taxpayers have been

doing since 1987 as they pick up the tab for the wreckage of the U.S. economy over the last 25 years or so—the savings and loan crisis, the commercial banking crisis, and soon, the insurance and pension crisis.

The illusion of power

The United States is in a depression worse than that of the 1930s, and has been so. The British economy is in a spiraling free fall. The Canadian economy has been sunk by the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement between the U.S. and Canada. Third World nations, by regions, and, as in the case of Africa, whole continents, have been reduced genocidally, below subsistence levels, under standing austerity conditionality policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The basis upon which LaRouche made his assessment that the G-7 meeting will be worse than a failure, is that there is no possibility of a recovery of either the Anglo-American economies or of the so-called Third World sector, *without a complete reversal of every economic and monetary trend in U.S. and British policymaking and IMF policymaking over the past 25 years*. The depression that we're in is man-made. It is the result of the policy changes that have been introduced over the past 25 years—particularly policies in the direction of so-called free trade/deregulation, and actually, policies in the direction of pure usury; policies based on creating a pure financial bubble globally—the biggest, worst financial bubble in the history of mankind. And this will simply get worse.

What the G-7 will attempt to do, is to create the *illusion* that the power of the United States and of the London financial market are somehow supported at the expense of the rest of the world, and therefore, that Anglo-American domination will not be diminished, but will, rather, be perpetuated for

another round of genocidal looting.

LaRouche put it this way, more concretely: "If the G-7 meeting proceeds toward bringing about the imposition of the so-called Polish model in Eastern European states generally, and something in the direction of the Polish model as conditionalities imposed upon the Soviet economy, then we will expect, following the G-7 meeting, an accelerating new round of collapse throughout Eastern Europe, as well as, in the same context, an accelerating new round of collapse cycle in most of the Third World. This kind of arrangement will unleash new instabilities, the fragmentation of nations, the threat of fragmentation of India in the context of the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, and so forth.

"It will be nothing to make any sane person happy with what comes out of the G-7 meeting; that can be guaranteed. It will make the economy worse; it will make the stability of the world worse—although it may bring temporarily to deluded, euphoric minds in various places, the delusion that because the Anglo-American will has prevailed in that effect, somehow, this prevalence bespeaks a prolongation of Anglo-American financial domination of the world."

Russian reform, and the GATT

The Anglo-American agenda for the summit includes, in addition to the Russian matter, the question of the stalled negotiations under the heading of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Both such agenda headings put the matter of financial-monetary arrangements, that is to say, usury, first, and leave aside the physical economic collapse which is impelling the world to disaster.

The Russians may be promised money, in amounts ranging from \$30 to \$50 billion per annum for five years, if they accept certain conditions. The conditions demanded as evidence of what Bush, Secretary of State James Baker, and others call "real reforms" include: slashing Soviet military expenditures, curtailing support for Cuba, showing "flexibility" on the Baltic republics, and demonstrating a firm commitment to so-called market reforms, including privatization of state enterprises, price reform through elimination of subsidies, and currency convertibility.

This so-called market reform package is the same as the Nazi-modeled austerity imposed on Poland since the winter of 1989, in the name of the program associated with Harvard's Jeffrey Sachs. The same Sachs has been involved in ongoing discussions with the Russians, along with former Michael Dukakis adviser Graham Allison and National Security Council staffer Ed Hewitt, formerly of the Brookings Institution. Included are adoption of IMF-dictated balance of payments financing, ruble convertibility, privatization of state enterprises, and elimination of pricing subsidies. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady had his own twist, recommending that the Russians make their own the destruction wreaked on Mexico in the last years in the name of the "free

market" and "liberalization."

This is the same genocidal approach which has been applied to the so-called developing sector since the adoption of the conditionalities policies during the earliest meetings of the group which became the G-7 in Rambouillet and Guadeloupe in 1974 and 1975. Unlike such relatively defenseless countries, Russia remains a superpower, its nuclear arsenal capable of wiping out the United States.

In the name of "free trade" and success of the "GATT round," the same approach is also directed against Germany and Japan. The U.S. crowd, represented by Special Trade Representative Carla Hills, now in Europe preparing the way, claims that over the next 10 years, \$5 trillion will be created through the GATT round, out of which the share of the United States will be more than 20%. This comes as extorted tribute from destroying the agriculture, and opening up the government procurement procedures of Europe and Japan to U.S. "competition." Three hundred billion dollars is supposed to be made available through the destruction of agriculture, \$600 billion through opening up bidding on government procurement contracts in Western Europe.

David Rockefeller and his Trilateral Commission, during its most recent meeting at the end of April, and now the OECD's ministerial meeting in Paris, all insist that the successful conclusion of the GATT round is the highest priority for the world. Rockefeller insists that catastrophe will follow if the round is not concluded successfully.

It won't work

LaRouche put it this way: Assume "that George Bush and British Prime Minister John Major have their way. Well, the summit will still be a failure. Because what they're proposing could never work—even in the short run. All that George Bush and John Major can get out of the London G-7 meeting and related discussions, is the mere appearance that the world is submitting to the power and rages of George Bush in Washington. George will try to say, 'Well, nobody dares buck me; nobody is attacking me; therefore, I'm boss. I'm the Boss of the World; and therefore, the U.S. economy is going to recover, because I will order it.'

"It won't work. The United States economy is already collapsed in every respect except the last shoe dropping. The last shoe, of course, is the making official of the already-bankrupt condition of the U.S. banking system. The British economy is in a deep, spiraling depression in the meantime.

"Now, what George has done so far, as he did during the so-called Gulf war, was to loot most of the world to try to prop up the U.S. economy.

"Well, the problem is that most of our friends and allies are tapped out; and others, whom we'd like to tap out, are too far gone to ante up. *It won't work*. This may be the last round. It might not be, but it may be. In any case, future history will look upon this G-7 meeting as George Bush's catastrophic failure."

LaRouche's 'Triangle' plan for Europe reaches Prague

by Nora Hamerman

This article was based on reporting from Prague by Angelika Beyreuther-Raimondi and Paolo Raimondi.

"Project for a New Europe," "The Europe of the Triangle," "Against the IMF," read the headlines of the Prague daily papers, following two meetings and a press conference on Lyndon LaRouche's European Productive Triangle plan of economic recovery, keyed by Helga Zepp-LaRouche on May 23 and 25.

Fifty representatives of government circles, various ministries, economic think tanks and political institutions, universities, political parties, media, and industry, gathered on May 25 for the first public conference of the Schiller Institute in Prague. The theme of the day-long seminar was the concept of a Productive Triangle, in which Czechoslovakia would play an absolutely central role. The western half of the country lies within the curvilinear triangle encompassed by the three corners, Paris, Berlin, and Vienna, to be connected by a dense network of high-speed rail links.

It was held at the Charitas Palace, headquarters of the People's Party, a Christian Democratic type of party.

Helga Zepp-LaRouche, a guest from Germany where she is president of the Schiller Institute, developed in her address an alternative to George Bush's new world order: a new world economic order based on the scientific principles of Christian economics. She condemned the policy of Washington and London as genocidal in intent and result, as is revealed in detail by a 1974 document of the U.S. National Security Council (see *EIR*, May 3, 1991). She warned of the pressing urgency of a Christian economic policy, based upon the two papal encyclicals *Rerum Novarum* and *Centesimus Annus*, and on the programmatic proposals of her husband Lyndon LaRouche, to stop the apocalyptic crisis in the so-called Third World.

Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche referred back to the 1891 encyclical of Pope Leo XIII, *Rerum Novarum*; Leo was the first Pope to forecast that world wars could be prevented only if all nations could take part in the production of human livelihood in a way corresponding to the dignity and scientific achievements of man.

"This has been on the table for 100 years," she said. "Two world wars have happened because it was not realized at the

time." Pointing out that one of the evils attacked by Pope Leo in 1891 has collapsed—socialism—Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche came to the core of LaRouche's approach to European recovery. "Now, where socialism is dead as a theory," so-called free market liberalism represents "as big a danger to mankind as socialism did before." Zepp-LaRouche called on her listeners to defeat liberalism in the same way the people of Eastern Europe caused the defeat of socialism in 1989.

Details of the Triangle

The Schiller Institute's organizing for the LaRouche plan to make Central Europe the engine of a worldwide recovery from economic depression, has had a powerful impact in Europe. Invited by freedom fighters and ex-political prisoners, Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche traveled to lead conferences on the Triangle in Gdansk, Poland last September, and in Budapest, Hungary in February, culminating in a major gathering in Berlin in March which was attended by economists from the liberated East bloc countries, the Baltic states, and even the U.S.S.R. The economists in Berlin issued a declaration demanding implementation of the LaRouche concept (see *EIR*, March 15).

At the Prague meeting, Jonathan Tennenbaum, director of the Fusion Energy Forum, unfolded the details of the LaRouche Productive Triangle plan for new, high-speed rail networks, canals, and new power and communications infrastructure to relink Eastern and Western Europe, using the most modern technologies such as magnetically levitated trains and nuclear high-temperature gas-cooled reactors. This plan, elaborated by a team guided by Dr. Tennenbaum, has circulated all over Europe for 18 months, by now translated into all the major languages, but this was the first time it had been presented to such a high-level audience in a capitals of Eastern Europe.

Tennenbaum presented shocking statistics and facts about the collapse of the American economy to an audience which, thanks to the monetarist finance minister of Czechoslovakia, Vaclav Klaus (a perfervid disciple of the Chicago School of economics of Milton Friedman) is constantly hearing the Anglo-American way peddled to them as the best solution for Czechoslovakia.

Schiller Institute speaker Paolo Raimondi presented the

ideas of German-American economist Friedrich List (1789-1846), the father of the German railways and indeed of the modern concept of a national economy. From the standpoint of List's pointed dissection of the errors of Adam Smith, Raimondi criticized Finance Minister Klaus, the "IMF's man" who is behind the current failing economic policy in Czechoslovakia. "The economic and global crisis is so advanced and explosive, that we are not allowed to make such a mistake or even to lose more time," said Raimondi. After showing how the Klaus-IMF "free market" ideology is blocking the needed construction of new economic infrastructure and high-technology industry, Raimondi charged, "I believe that the plan of the free market proponents is to transform Czechoslovakia into the European Mexico."

Median income like Chad's

The discussion centered heavily on the question of what the best way is to achieve future development. Who would Prague's partners be in the West, should they choose to strike out on the path of the Productive Triangle? How can the West European countries learn to better understand the hardships faced by their new partners in the East? How can the "good idea" of the Productive Triangle actually be financed? What criteria should be used to fix the right valuation of the national currency, the krone, so that on the one hand exports would not fall apart, but on the other hand it would correspond to real purchasing power?

One participant in the debate compared the average monthly wage in the Czechoslovak Federal Socialist Republic with Chad in Africa. In both countries, monthly income stands at around \$120. The difference is that Czechoslovakia is a highly industrialized, thickly populated country, with a well-trained work force, which before the grim years of captivity behind the Iron Curtain had been one of Europe's top industrial nations. One burning question was how to keep young, qualified workers in Czechoslovakia when the lure of emigration is tugging on them: A nurse, for example, gets the minimum wage of 2,000 kronas inside Czechoslovakia—less than \$100 a month.

The executive director of EIR Nachrichtenagentur in Wiesbaden, Germany, Michael Liebig, laid out the security policy requirements of the Productive Triangle in his talk on "Security for Europe—The Name of Peace Is Development." Arguing for a European Defense Union, he stressed the timeliness for the new united Europe of today of the strategic principles put forward three decades ago by General de Gaulle and his aide, General Beaufre.

Angelika Bayreuther-Raimondi, the last speaker, painted a stark picture of the fearsome consequences of the policy of the International Monetary Fund. IMF "conditionalities" are always the same and in not one single case, have they ever led to the healthy development of a national economy, she said. The social impact of IMF policies in Central and Eastern European lands are catastrophic and will badly undermine

the young democracies. The only party which today in the Czechoslovakia is loudly attacking the IMF is, unhappily, the Communist Party—with around 400,000 members, still the strongest single political force.

One participant in the discussion described the problem as follows. If a person comes out against the IMF, he or she is immediately labeled as a communist, and the communists are the ones who want to profit from an ever-worsening economic situation. Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche emphasized over and over, as she intervened into the debate, that there is only one positive alternative, the implementation of the industrial-capitalist concept of the Productive Triangle.

Schiller Institute at the Castle

On May 23 the George of Podebrady Foundation for European Cooperation invited speakers from the Schiller Institute to their quarters in the Castle of Prague (where the President has his office), to address nearly two dozen experts from ministries, research institutes, and universities during a half-day seminar on the pivotal role of Central Europe in the implementation of the Productive Triangle. The affair was chaired by the editor in chief of the magazine *Mezinarodni Politika (International Politics)*, Dobroslav Matejka, who welcomed the two speakers, Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche and Dr. Tennenbaum.

The foundation was founded after the spring 1990 revolution as an independent umbrella group for various organizations, including the Helsinki Committee of Czechoslovakia, the Organization for the European Homeland, and the Committee for European Security and Cooperation. These organizations have links to the Charter 77 group. The chairman of the foundation is ex-Foreign Minister Prof. Jiri Hajek. The foundation took its name from King George of Podebrady, who had drafted a plan in 1462-64, for a union of European sovereigns against the Turkish onslaught in the Balkans. Several participants said they saw the seminar as only the starting point for more intense study of the Productive Triangle by several economic groups associated with the foundation.

'Against the IMF'

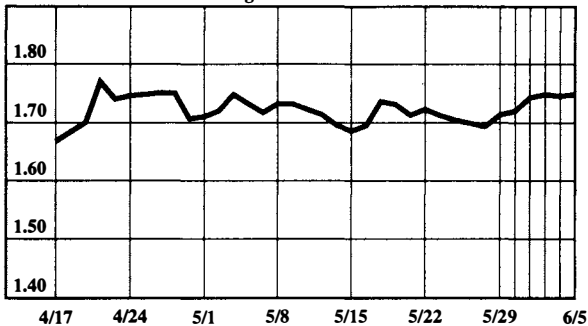
On May 27, the Czech People's Party paper *Lidova Democracie* reported that the Schiller Institute was promoting an infrastructure program of rail transportation, power, communications and waterways, to set off a new expansion in Europe's most concentrated industrial area, the Paris-Berlin-Vienna triangle, projecting a "corridor of development" into the Soviet Union as well. *Lidova Democracie* added that the Schiller Institute is very critical of the International Monetary Fund, whose policies may expose 120 million Latin Americans to cholera.

Prague's major daily, *Obcansky Denik*, published by the Civic Forum, which played a key role in the 1989 anti-communist revolution, stressed Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche's criticism of the economic policies of the International Monetary Fund and mentioned that Lyndon LaRouche was a Democratic presidential candidate in 1988.

Currency Rates

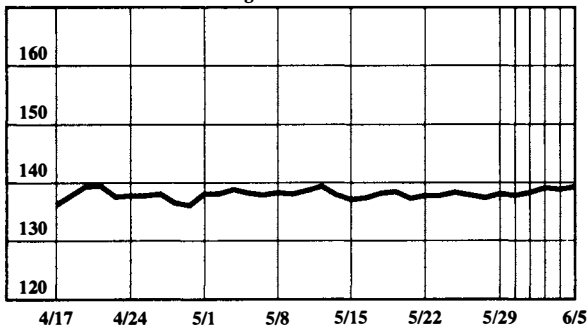
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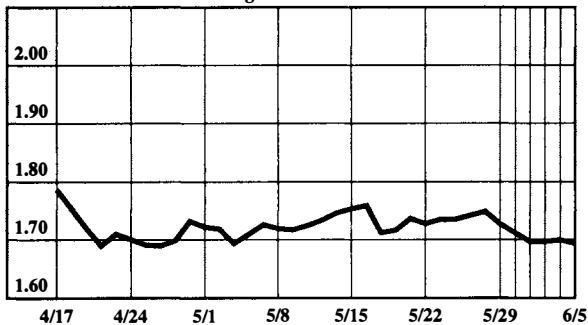
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



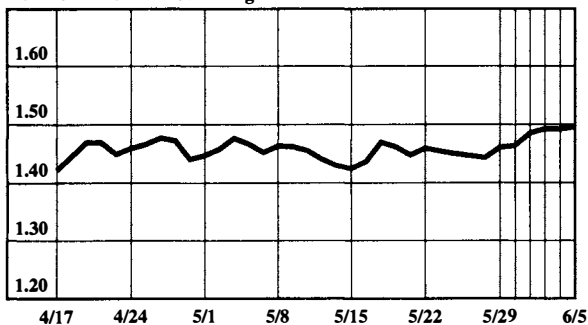
The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



The campaign against 'Centesimus Annus'

by Nancy Spannaus

A veritable torrent of disinformation has washed over the American media since the release of the encyclical *Centesimus Annus* on May 2, 1991. It seems that the self-appointed experts and commentators are confident that Americans will never get around to reading the lengthy document, and that they can therefore distort its content as much as they like.

Most shocking has been the series of columns by Catholics associated with what is called the neo-conservative movement in the United States. While their cohorts in London and Switzerland had issued dire warnings about the "socialist" leanings of Pope John Paul II, these fellows reversed course, and lavished inordinate praise on the Pontiff for allegedly "repudiating" the social teachings of the Church as they were defined by the 1891 encyclical *Rerum Novarum*.

Of course, Pope John Paul II did no such thing. His encyclical firmly endorses *Rerum Novarum's* outlook on the state's responsibility for ensuring the dignity of human work, and underlines the fact that "many people, perhaps the majority today, do not have the means which would enable them to take their place in an effective and humanly dignified way within a productive system in which work is truly central."

The role of capitalism

It is the argument of neo-conservatives like Michael Novak of the American Enterprise Institute, Llewellyn Rockwell of the Ludwig von Mises Institute, and Richard Neuhaus of the magazine *First Things*, that *Centesimus Annus* wholeheartedly endorses the free market and capitalism. They have to know they are lying.

Take the most obvious example. Llewellyn Rockwell, in his May 3 column in the *Washington Times*, writes as follows:

"Man does not live by bread alone, but in the realm of economics, 'the free market is the most efficient instrument for utilizing resources and effectively responding to needs.' (His [the Pope's] emphasis)," Rockwell attributes to the Pope.

Now look at the original text, which, as provided by the Catholic News Service's *Origins*, does not include any special emphasis in this passage:

"34. It would appear that on the level of individual nations

and of international relations the free market is the most efficient instrument for utilizing resources and effectively responding to needs. But this is true only for those needs which are 'solvent' insofar as they are endowed with purchasing power and for those resources which are 'marketable' insofar as they are capable of obtaining a satisfactory price."

What a fraud Rockwell has perpetrated!

Indeed, the Pope has taken every effort to prevent precisely the conclusion that our free marketeers want to draw. In section 35, he writes the following:

"We have seen that it is unacceptable to say that the defeat of so-called 'real socialism' leaves capitalism as the only model of economic organization. It is necessary to break down the barriers and monopolies which leave so many countries on the margins of development and to provide all individuals and nations with the basic conditions which will enable them to share in development. This goal calls for programmed and responsible efforts on the part of the entire international community."

The socialist countries

It is Michael Novak who attempts to draw the most direct conclusion from this misrepresentation of the Pope's encyclical, by saying that he endorses the "market economy" for his native Poland and other East bloc nations. Novak goes so far as to praise the Pope for "nuancing" his message, but basically reversing previous critiques of capitalism by the Church.

Yet, *Centesimus Annus* specifically seeks to avoid this conclusion. In section 19, the Pope praises countries which try to rebuild "a democratic society inspired by social justice," but "at the same time, [these attempts] try to avoid making market mechanisms the only point of reference for social life, and they tend to subject them to public control, which upholds the principles of the common destination of material goods."

Most important as an omission, however, is the failure of Novak and the other major columnists to note the central parameter for economy which the encyclical puts forward: its guarantee of the dignity of human labor. This dignity is still being abused today, John Paul II says, both in the Third World and elsewhere, and even in those places where the values of the free market are idolized. To bypass this central issue, is to commit a conscious fraud.

It is not surprising that these commentators, whose view is shared, by the way, by the self-professed liberal Georgie Anne Geyer, would ignore the encyclical's message for the Third World. Nor is it surprising that they would misidentify "liberalism" as limited to "libertarianism," instead of the Adam Smith school of economics which it is.

Perhaps it is impossible for pragmatic neo-conservatives to comprehend the unity of morality and economics, which is what the Pope tries to convey. If so, one would wish they would not pretend to be experts who end up spreading destructive lies.

Soviets show interest in papal encyclical

On May 22, an unprecedented seminar to discuss the encyclical of Pope John Paul II *Centesimus Annus* was jointly organized in Moscow by the Soviet Committee for European Cooperation and Development, and the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Dialogue with Non-Believers. According to reports published in the Milan Catholic daily *Avvenire*, the meeting, on the theme "Democracy and moral values," was "special" due to the participation of some of the most influential members of Gorbachov's intelligentsia.

Vadim Zagladin, a political adviser to President Gorbachov, underlined the major interest and discussion in Moscow about the social doctrine of the Catholic Church. "In *Centesimus Annus*, John Paul II has elaborated a very rich document which deserves great attention, projected into the future," he said, "for it not only tries to explain what has happened, but invites us to look with confidence to the ideas which can change the future." The new morality of perestroika, according to Zagladin, needs a dialogue with the Christians "who are the pioneers of the discovery of human and moral values."

Avvenire reports on the surprising experience of discussion with Soviet leaders seriously engaged in quoting and debating Popes and encyclicals. One of the most competent religious experts, Prof. Nikolai Kowalski, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and adviser to Gorbachov on religious affairs, intervened to emphasize the great interest in the encyclical in the Soviet Union, because Soviet "new thinking" finds many parallels in it. "For us, what the Pope says about free market economics is especially interesting," he said. "As you know there is a debate in our country on the type of future economic system, and when the Pope warns of the dangers of consumerism, this is a very important issue upon which we should reflect." Kowalski also refers to the Pope's notion of dialogue and tolerance in a pluralistic society and the danger of fundamentalism, as relevant to the changes in the Soviet Union.

Cardinal Poupard, the president of the Pontifical Council for Dialogue with Non-Believers, spoke about the culture of the old Europe as based on the Christian Gospel and referred to democracy, not as a social contract, but as "the expression of an ideal of growth of humanity" in which man is free from slavery and misery.

Australia Group backs technical apartheid

by Kathleen Klenetsky

The Bush administration scored an important victory for its policy of controlling the flow of high-technology exports to the Third World, when the Australia Group endorsed stringent, U.S.-sponsored restrictions on the export to developing-sector nations of 50 common chemicals that allegedly can be used in the development of chemical or biological weapons.

An informal alliance of 20 industrialized nations that monitors chemical weapons proliferation, the Australia Group agreed to the Bush administration's plan at a meeting in Paris in mid-May.

The United States imposed the controls on its own exporters two months ago, but was determined to get the other major supplier countries to go along, to ensure that the restrictions could not be circumvented. For six months, Bush emissaries have been using various forms of persuasion—including threats of prosecution—to induce other industrialized countries to agree to honor the curbs.

Bush administration officials were ecstatic at the success of their persuasion tactics. "It's a major breakthrough. To have taken this action so rapidly is quite an accomplishment," crowed Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Elizabeth Ver-ville, one of the U.S. delegates to the Australia Group meeting.

'Enhanced proliferation control'

Some supporters of the policy just rubberstamped by the Australia Group have candidly called it "technological apartheid" against the developing sector. In simple language, this means the denial of food, medicine, and water to the Third World—and that is precisely what the Bush gang wants to achieve. The chemical controls are a key element of the "Enhanced Proliferation Control Initiative," which President Bush unveiled last November, amid the hysteria which administration propagandists had stirred up concerning Iraq's chemical weapons capability—which, of course, never actually materialized during the Gulf conflict.

The EPCI proposed harsh restrictions not only on the export of 50 common chemicals, but on other forms of technology—ranging from engineering and scientific computer software to heavy trucks—that might conceivably be used by a Third World country to develop chemical or bio-

logical weapons.

What this means in practice is that developing nations will be segregated from access to the technologies they need to survive. Seen from that standpoint, it is clear that the new policy is part and parcel of the broader Anglo-American strategy for forcing drastic reductions in population throughout the Third World, as detailed in the series of 1974-76 National Security Council documents which *EIR* recently brought to light (see *EIR*, May 3, 1991).

Although the Bush administration has sold the controls as a means of controlling the proliferation of chemical and biological weapons, the fact remains that nearly all of the 50 restricted chemicals are what are known as "dual-use" technologies, meaning that they have important uses in the civilian economy, even though they can also be used in military applications. Thus, the list of restricted chemicals includes ones that are commonly used for the production of fertilizer and pesticides; for sewage and water treatment; for tanning leather; and even for making beer.

The fact that nearly every one of the proscribed chemicals is essential to modern industrial and agricultural processes underscores the policy's true purpose, which is to strangle the flow of technology to the developing sector, strengthening the political control of the Anglo-American establishment. By cutting off these chemicals, under the pretext of preventing the production of chemical weapons, the Bush administration, and now the Australia Group, are effectively cutting off the fragile lifeline upon which the future of most Third World countries depends.

Death and servitude

Without these chemicals, developing countries will find themselves unable to produce food—since they won't be able to manufacture their own pesticides or fertilizers—or to supply clean water to their people, a circumstance which will lead to the spread of terrible water-borne epidemics like cholera.

On top of this, they will be forced into a position of complete servitude to the whims of Washington. Since the U.S. policy imposes controls, and not a total ban, it is hypothetically possible that some developing countries might still be able to obtain the restricted chemicals, but at what price? Will they have to agree to draconian population control measures, for instance, or endorse future U.S. colonial adventures, like that against Iraq?

Having obtained the Australia Group's backing, the U.S. government is now proposing to cut off the last channel through which Third World countries might attempt to obtain the taboo chemicals: the more advanced Third World nations, which have their own indigenous chemical production capabilities. The United States is reportedly urging that such countries as India and South Korea be invited to join the Australia Group, as a tactic to get these countries to abide by the new chemical controls regime.

Medicare 'reform' will hit the elderly

by Steve Parsons

On May 31, U.S. Medicare officials announced the most sweeping changes in reimbursements for physicians since the inception of the program in 1965, and the changes will be a disaster for the 34 million elderly and disabled now covered by the program.

The new fee schedule, which will go into effect Jan. 1, 1992, will standardize reimbursements throughout the country for more than 4,000 services, thus abolishing the traditional method of reimbursing "usual and customary" fees, which have increased far beyond the average rate of inflation and have been much higher for urban areas. The new schedule is touted as key to staunching the doctor drain from rural to urban areas, by reducing the monetary advantage that urban physicians have had over rural practitioners—especially if private insurers follow the Medicare schedule, which they undoubtedly will do.

Specialized health care suffers

The new schedule is also supposedly designed to lessen the imbalance between "excessive" fees for specialist practices and procedures—including ophthalmology, anesthesiology, diagnostic services, and surgery—and relatively lower fees for internists and family and general practitioners engaged in more "preventive" medicine.

The revised fees, however, permit only a modest and totally inadequate increase for general practitioners and internists, while slashing reimbursements for more sophisticated medical practices. By 1996, reimbursements for general hospital and office visits will increase 26-27%—which amount to perhaps 15% more than would have been paid out under current fee policy. This doesn't come close to offsetting nearly 40% in cuts by 1996 in virtually all the more specialized areas.

For example, Medicare would pay physicians who performed coronary bypass surgery only \$1,925 in 1996, compared to \$3,181 this year; cataract surgery would only get \$832, against \$1,342 this year; radiation therapy would receive \$99, against \$162. Although fees in future years will be increased for an inflation factor, Congress has set that factor at less than 4%, meaning that the 40% cuts will actually amount to well over 50% by 1996.

That means an enormous increase in the number of doctors who will refuse to treat Medicare patients, or reduce treatment, unless these patients pay the difference out of their

own pockets. When the private insurance companies follow suit, countless other patients—and doctors—will wind up in the same boat.

Furthermore, as the American Medical Association points out, these reductions signal that the Bush administration is "nullifying payment gains for many rural and primary-care services," contrary to the intent of Congress. In fact, according to Dr. Robert Graham, executive vice president of the American Academy of Family Physicians, "Some family physicians could lose money on some services." The only major difference in urban and rural physician costs that Medicare will now cover is higher "office costs," the largest component of which is higher office rents. This means *de facto* Medicare subsidies for the collapsing real estate and banks' mortgage debt.

Disguised budget cuts

Even though, under the revised fees, Medicare payouts to physicians will rise from this year's \$32 billion to \$50 billion in 1996, that is \$3 billion less than projected under the current system. This \$3 billion "savings" is actually a cutback, charges Dr. Graham, "a budget-reduction strategy, not the congressional intent of physician payment reform," which mandated a more equitable distribution of Medicare payments across the professions, while fostering higher remuneration for "primary care" and rural physicians. That \$3 billion is what the AMA and other physicians' organizations believe should go for family physicians. This would have given them a 30% real increase instead of the 15% now proposed, and resulted in better preventive care.

The government responded that the savings was just by chance, due to "technical factors" in setting the fees, with no intent to cut the budget. That's pure hogwash. In fact, the fee revisions reflect the cost-accounting numerology of the gnomes at Medicare's Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA). With total disregard for any of the intangibles in competent medical treatment, these bureaucrats set fee "values" on 4,000 medical treatments, assigning values from 1 to more than 110. These numbers are based on "studies comparing the time, effort, and stress it takes to perform" different medical services, reports the *Washington Post*—but actually reflect the budgeting decision "that surgery and other complex procedures have heretofore been too highly valued relative to consultations and office visits."

That's not all. HCFA then chose a magic number—\$26.87—to be the "conversion factor." This is the base number that is then multiplied by the numerical "values" of the various procedures, to get the Medicare reimbursement fees. By simply reducing this magic number, and assigning lower "values" to procedures, the entire fee schedule can be cut.

These are the "technical factors" that just happened to result in a \$3 billion "saving," and will undoubtedly be used to slash more and more from Medicare, and all health insurance, in the future.

Free trade pushes Australian economy into a free fall

by Marcia Merry

Australia has long been lauded as the showpiece example of the non-subsidized, low-cost agriculture that elite Anglo-American financial interests are demanding for all 100 member nations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. In fact, Australia hosted the meeting of GATT food-exporting nations to form the Cairns Group, to lobby for ending farm subsidies through the GATT. The Anglo-American power bloc has relied on the Canberra government to help enforce their imperial bidding.

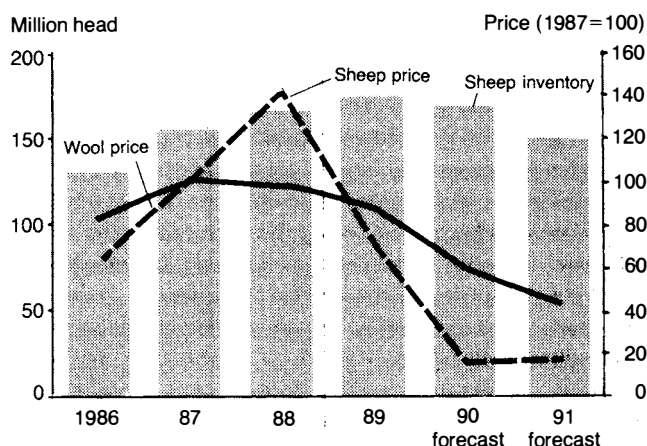
However, the catastrophe now unfolding in the Australian economy shows the inevitable consequences of years of free trade policies. Australia stands as an example of why *not* to have free trade.

The Australian farm crisis is "the worst for a century," according to John Allwright, outgoing president of the National Farmers Federation. Speaking at the May NFF conference, he said the situation was worse than the 1982 drought, the Great Depression, and comparable only to crisis times in the 1890s. "You drive through country towns and all you see are service stations and small businesses closed." He scored government policies for causing record levels of business bankruptcies. "How many bankrupt farmers do we need to prove the present situation is like the 1890s? Many people will be hurt and some will be forced from their farm. It is simply heartbreaking to watch years of work, sometimes generations of enterprise, crumble around you."

The immediate cause for crisis is the plunge in prices for wool, sheep, and wheat—the leading Australian export commodities. Wool prices are down 50% from last year; wheat prices have dropped 50% from earlier in the 1980s; sheep prices are so low that it doesn't pay to haul the animals to market.

Over the past 25 years, the Australian economy was warped into fitting the role of a raw food and fiber commodities-producing region, and away from a path of industrial, agricultural, and infrastructure-based economic growth. International flows of trade in staples have been dominated by the small cartel of world food and commodities companies, which have intervened to prevent the development of output potential. Now, farmers in the few regions of the world with an immediate capability to produce surplus food for consumption wherever needed, are being ruined, while millions go hungry in Africa, Ibero-America, and other regions where

FIGURE 1
Sheep and wool prices plunge



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

output potential has been systematically suppressed.

If the "fighting mad" mood of Australian farmers extends throughout the general citizenry of the country, and fouls up the works for GATT and other free trade swindles, then there is hope that the "new world order" of free trade and misery will crumble and be replaced by genuine economic growth and development.

Government program: Kill the sheep

Figure 1 shows the dire situation with sheep and wool. Since last year, wool prices have plunged by 50%. Since Australia accounts for 60% of the world market in fine wool, this drop has also had ripple effects throughout the other main producing regions—South Africa, New Zealand, Argentina, and Uruguay.

The government's response has been to charge that there is too much wool, and to invoke the mythology of "supply and demand" to declare that farm prices will increase if there is a sheep kill-off. On Feb. 11 this year, the Australian wool Reserve Price Scheme was suspended, after being in effect for 17 years, and serving as the wool floor price. A flock

reduction program was ordered by the Australian Wool Corporation, the agency that has administered the RPS. The plan calls for the sheep flock to be reduced by 20 million head, or about 12%, in 12 months.

Under the kill-off plan, graziers are to receive Aus\$1.80 per head, as the inducement to kill off the sheep. Since mutton prices dropped from Aus\$0.28 per kilogram in 1989-90 to Aus\$0.06 in 1990-91, producers cannot even afford to ship the animals to slaughterhouses. So far, 80% of the animals killed have been dumped into carcass pits on the ranch or elsewhere in the community. Financing for the kill-off is coming from the farmer-funded Wool Board's Market Support Fund, which collects compulsory levies from producers.

As of May, more than 840,000 of the 2.8 million sheep registered under the scheme have been certified killed. Continuation of the program will kill off farmers. Growers estimate that half of the wool producers in Australia will be bankrupted if the wool levy and low wool prices continue.

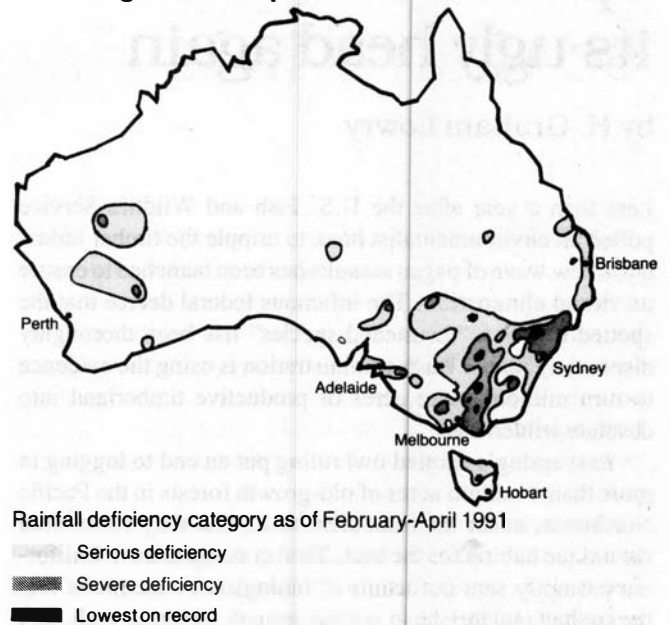
In addition to dismantling the RPS and Wool Corporation operations nominally intended to protect farmers, the government has established two new statutory agencies—the Wool Realization Commission and the Wool Research and Development Corporation—to cash in on liquidating unsold wool assets of the ruined Australian Wool Corporation. John Kerin, Minister for Primary Industries, has announced a seven-year plan for the new entities to liquidate the AWC wool stockpile, amounting to 4.7 millions bales, and to use the proceeds to reduce AWC debt, which is about \$2.88 billion.

Kerin has imperiously ignored the obvious point that the government wool "rescue" plan is really a commodities grab. Ian Murphy, who operates one of the largest sheep stations in Australia, said, "The so-called wool rescue package is really a blueprint for monopolist control and eventual total acquisition of the Australian wool clip." Kerin counters that an "independent body" is needed to deal with debt and the wool stockpile through "commercial" channels.

The wheat situation is in similar crisis. Wheatgrowers worldwide have been systematically underpaid for their output by the grain cartel companies—Cargill, Continental, Louis Dreyfus, Bunge, André/Garnac, ADM/Toepfer, and a few others. Farmers have been getting less than \$2.40 a bushel, when their cost to produce is double that, and a fair return means they should receive over \$7. Over the last year, the rationalization for rigging this low price was that there is a wheat "glut"—the coordinated line put out by the cartel interests, through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Brussels bureaucracy of the European Community, the GATT, and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Figures released on May 10 by the National Farmers Federation show that most farmers' incomes are expected to fall by 67% this year to Aus\$20,614. Wheat farmers are expected to earn only Aus\$3,875 in 1991. Those without an off-farm income have been plunged into disaster.

FIGURE 2
Rainfall deficiencies hit farm regions already suffering from low prices



Source: *Australian*, May 11, 1991

For a third of wheatgrowers, financing for this year's planting has been all but impossible. June is the seeding time, and protest actions are occurring almost daily. In New South Wales, farmers took the state agriculture minister on a tour, ushered him into a shed, locked him in, and buried the shed in wheat for a couple hours to show him the meaning of the government's lies about surpluses. In one locality, seven farmers committed suicide this year.

The government's response to date has been to encourage farmers to apply for welfare. On April 17, when funding to the Rural Adjustment Scheme was increased by Aus\$100 million to Aus\$164 million, Minister Kerin urged farmers to apply as hardship cases under the Social Security Act.

Overall, the May rise in unemployment was the highest monthly rise on record—9.9%, with a total of 844,000 listed officially as out of work. These figures are known to be an understatement, and analysts predict that the official unemployment rate will soon top 12%.

And then, the drought

In this context, the drought is creating a catastrophe. The map (Figure 2) shows the extent of the rainfall deficiency. Almost no rain fell in the autumn—March, April, May—in the main grain growing regions. The subsoil moisture for seeding the winter wheat is thus not there. Pre-winter pasture growth was stunted, and graziers are forced to slaughter live-stock because they cannot afford to hand-feed the animals.

Spotted owl rears its ugly head again

by H. Graham Lowry

Less than a year after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pulled an environmentalist hoax to cripple the timber industry, a new wave of pagan assaults has been launched to ensure its virtual elimination. The infamous federal decree that the spotted owl is a "threatened species" has been thoroughly disproven, but the Bush administration is using the evidence to turn millions more acres of productive timberland into desolate wilderness.

Last spring's spotted owl ruling put an end to logging in more than 4 million acres of old-growth forests in the Pacific Northwest, under the fraudulent claim that they constituted the unique habitat for the bird. Timber companies in California promptly sent out teams of biologists to document that the spotted owl thrives in second-growth forests as well, and was therefore not threatened. The Fish and Wildlife Service has now taken the companies' findings of hundreds of owl nesting sites in their own second-growth forests, and is demanding that nearly 1.5 million of those acres be designated "critical habitat" as well!

In all, the agency is proposing that more than *11.6 million acres* of forest in California, Oregon, and Washington be designated as critical owl habitat, including nearly 3.3 million acres scattered throughout northern California. The accompanying restrictions would make logging virtually impossible, since they outlaw any activities that would even "modify" the owl's habitat.

Thriving birds, dying industries

The only thing threatened with extinction in the Pacific coastal forests is its population, along with the timber industry. The majority of the lumber is produced by independent, often family-run companies, which depend almost entirely on cutting public forests. Even before the spotted owl ruling, the entire logging industry was cutting only 1% or less per year of the timber in public forests; but since then, harvest plans have been routinely rejected by federal and state authorities. The results have been devastating: no timber for the sawmills, no lumber for construction, and no jobs for tens of thousands.

In the northernmost counties of California, the heart of the state's timber industry, the casualty list is already a long one. Blue Lake Forest Products is in Chapter 11 bankruptcy; scores of smaller companies are idle for lack of timber. Even among the industry's major corporations, those depending on public

timber have already made significant cutbacks. Louisiana-Pacific's plant at Anderson has been shut down for two months; at Potter Valley, workers are on indefinite layoff; at Samoa, the plant is down to one shift. Georgia-Pacific is down to one shift at Fort Bragg; it normally runs three.

In Humboldt County, roughly 25% of the 12,000 jobs tied to the timber industry have disappeared since last June's spotted owl ruling. International Woodworkers union officials in Arcata estimate the new restrictions, including pending state and federal legislation on timber practices, will eliminate two-thirds of all the jobs in the county. "We've got a \$15 billion budget deficit in California," says Bill Chancellor, business manager of Local 398, "and they want to shut down the timber industry. That could cost the county alone \$10 million a month in revenues, and that's in a county that only has about 100,000 people."

Legislative knives are out

On top of the spotted owl onslaught, officials in Sacramento and in Washington are preparing a legislative bloodbath against the timber industry, with bills that variously would reduce even approved harvests by over 80%, restrict harvesting in forest "watersheds" by 50-75%, reduce clear-cutting in second-growth forests (the only way that new forests can be planted), ban all old-growth cutting for five years, and eliminate industry and labor representation on the California Board of Forestry. A bill in Congress would limit the annual old-growth harvest in federal forests of the Pacific North Coast to 2.2 billion board feet per year, against an average harvest over the last five years of nearly 4.1 billion.

To maximize the devastation in the name of the spotted owl and innumerable other innocent creatures, Congress has also just created a new advisory panel, "for the protection and management of old-growth forests and endangered wildlife species in the Pacific Northwest, including the northern spotted owl." Leaders of the House Agriculture Committee and the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee announced its establishment May 24, after homosexual congressman Gerry Studds (D-Mass.) wrote to Agricultural Committee chairman Kika de la Garza (D-Tex.), demanding that he "oppose any effort to undercut the requirements of the Endangered Species Act as that law applies to the northern spotted owl."

The advisory group includes some of the top pagans responsible for the earlier regulatory assaults on the timber industry, led by Jack Ward Thomas of the Department of Agriculture. He chaired the Interagency Scientific Committee which recommended last year, that logging be banned wherever necessary to protect the spotted owl. Also on the panel is John Gordon, dean of Yale's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, who last year directed a National Research Council study calling for an "environmental" approach to forestry, on the premise that "humans are not superior to the natural world."

The Third World: casualty of the Persian Gulf war

by Kevin Dunion

Mr. Dunion is the former editor of Radical Scotland and an officer of Scottish Education and Action for Development. This article is reprinted with his permission.

First the war; now the reckoning. It is often said that the cost of conflict is incalculable. This may be true in terms of the lives lost and shattered by death and maiming. However, the financial losses are being totted up by those involved in the Gulf War more quickly than a lawyer's fee-charger. The United States and the United Kingdom have already presented their bills to the world community. Indeed Britain was said to be so successful in securing pledges in advance of the ground war, that some reports claim that the income and expenditure accounts may show a profit, since latest estimate of military costs of \$25 billion comes in at the low end of the scale of pre-war predictions.

These costs are dwarfed, however, by Kuwait's claim for reparations against Iraq. Latest estimates from the Al-Sabah ruling family put the figure at some \$100 billion, including everything from looted hospital equipment to gold nuggets stolen from the central bank. The cost of rebuilding Kuwait has leaped from \$40 billion to \$75 billion within a period of one month. Even before the war was concluded, the Kuwaiti royal family was preparing a short list of contractors, leading to a dispute about who was eligible to receive lucrative jobs. Peter Lilley, U.K. trade minister, debriefed reporters on his successful skirmish, which saw the timeframe for applications extended to allow British firms to make the list.

Lost amongst this clamor have been the Third World countries which have, in many cases, had to bear the economic consequences of conflict on top of other destabilizing factors like severe indebtedness or drought. For some like Jordan and Yemen, the war has been an economic catastrophe. In Jordan's case, the cost is put at close to \$2 billion, which is a quarter of its GNP and would consume 75% of its export revenue. The most significant feature of Jordan's plight is the stance it took on the conflict. Its difficulty in applying sanctions, and King Hussein's increasingly critical attitude toward the prosecution of the war has cost the country dear. Aid from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia has been withheld, and the United States is currently reviewing its aid program, worth \$85 million per annum. Saudi Arabia also cut off oil supplies, forcing Jordan to turn back to Iraq. However, there

is no assurance that Iraq will have the capacity to export oil, and sweeping energy-saving measures, including fuel rationing, have been introduced.

Jordan has also had to bear the brunt of refugees, and returning workers escaping the conflict. Over 300,000 workers have returned to Jordan, representing 10% of the labor force. Many of these returned involuntarily from Saudi Arabia. As Palestinians with Jordanian citizenship they had been entitled to an exemption from the requirement to have a named host in Saudi Arabia before receiving a work permit. With the chilling of relations, this provision was withdrawn, forcing the workers to leave, with little prospect of returning.

Jordan's plight compares graphically with that of Egypt. The war cost Egypt ca. \$1 billion, around 3% of GNP, and nearly half a million migrant workers have returned. However, the sympathetic stance taken toward the Allies has been well rewarded. The U.S. has already forgiven \$13.4 billion worth of debt, and further debts of \$5-10 billion owed to wealthy nations are being reviewed. Germany, Japan, France, and Saudi Arabia have announced grants totaling some \$1.7 billion, leading to the conclusion that Egypt has been more than compensated for the impact of the war on its economy.

Like a rock dropped into the middle of a pond, the ripples of the Gulf War extend far beyond the immediate area. From Mozambique to Sri Lanka, and as far away as unlikely places such as Paraguay and the Dominican Republic, the economic consequences of the war have been significant. Research undertaken by the (independent) Overseas Development Institute puts the cost to Thailand, for instance, at \$982 million, almost exactly the same as to Egypt in dollar terms (although, of course, less as a proportion of GNP). At least 40 low and lower-middle income developing countries have lost more than 1% of their GNP because of the war—mostly through loss of export markets, increased oil prices during the run-up to the war, and loss of concessional oil supply terms, as well as loss of remittances from workers in the Gulf (see table). These figures mask the impact some of these factors have for localized areas within Third World nations. So, while the economy of India as a whole was not severely affected, that of the state of Kerala—which is heavily dependent on cash flows from migrant workers in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia—is likely to be badly damaged. In some cases the

Countries where the impact of the Gulf crisis exceeds 1% of GNP

(millions of U.S. dollars)

Country	Oil cost/ (benefit)	Non-oil cost	Total cost	% GNP
Low Income:				
Middle East				
Yemen	(570)	1400	830	10.4%
South Asia				
Bangladesh	130	115	245	1.4
Pakistan	560	295	855	2.4
Sri Lanka	140	125	265	4.0
Sub-Saharan Africa				
Benin	40	—	40	2.2
Chad	25	—	25	2.5
Ethiopia	115	—	115	2.0
Ghana	50	—	50	1.0
Kenya	125	—	125	1.5
Lesotho	15	—	15	2.0
Liberia	20	—	20	2.0
Madagascar	50	—	50	2.1
Mali	35	—	35	1.9
Mauritania	10	—	10	1.2
Mozambique	20	—	20	2.0
Rwanda	35	—	35	1.6
Sudan	75	305	380	3.8
Tanzania	80	—	80	2.8
Lower middle income:				
"Front line" states				
Jordan	200	1,570	1,770	31.5
Turkey	1,210	2,150	3,360	4.9
Egypt	(1,215)	2,200	985	2.9
East Asia				
Papua/New Guinea	60	—	60	1.8
Philippines	470	160	630	1.6
Thailand	980	—	980	1.7
Latin America & Caribbean				
Costa Rica	75	—	75	1.7
Dominican Republic	150	—	150	3.4
Honduras	60	—	60	1.4
Jamaica	70	—	70	2.6
Nicaragua	45	—	45	1.4
Panama	60	—	60	1.4
Paraguay	105	—	105	2.8
North Africa				
Morocco	260	150	410	2.0
Sub-Saharan Africa				
Botswana	35	—	35	2.8
Ivory Coast	110	—	110	1.1
Mauritius	50	—	50	2.6
Subtotal cost for low income countries			\$3,200	
Total cost			\$12,100	

dollars cost of the war appears tiny—Mauritania's losses are put at only \$11 million, which would barely count as a rounding up figure on the Allies' and Kuwaiti calculations. But to a severely indebted and chronically poor nation like Mauritania, this represents 1.2% of GNP and over 2% of its total export earnings. It is all too easy to let one's eyes glaze over at statistics like these, but if a country were to suffer a loss of 1% of GNP through an earthquake, or hurricane, this

would be regarded as a national natural disaster for which international aid would be mobilized.

No such aid is currently forthcoming, despite the fact that the total bill to these 40 most affected Third World countries comes to only \$12 billion, less than the amount of the debt writeoff given to Egypt alone. The compensating arrangements which have been established through the Gulf Crisis Financial Coordination Group have been applied very narrowly—to Jordan, Turkey, and Egypt. Existing World Bank and IMF provisions are inappropriate—as aid from these sources is very conditional and is extremely slow to be disbursed. Countries like Sudan which were previously in dire straits, have already had their borrowing facility withdrawn, so that they are ineligible to apply to the IMF for assistance. The Gulf crisis has cost Sudan nearly \$200 million (ca. 3% of GNP). Yet sympathy for Sudan from the wealthy bilateral aid donors like the U.K., U.S., or Germany is nonexistent given Sudan's support for Iraq in the war. [The Gulf Crisis Financial Coordination Group consists of 24 countries, comprising most of the OECD countries plus some Gulf states: Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Kuwait—ed.]

It is not right that the Third World should be obliged to pass around the begging bowl yet again, and called to account for their stance in the conflict ("Are you, or have you ever been, a supporter of Iraq?"). The war was, it is claimed, U.N.-sanctioned, and more than ever before, the U.N. structure, and its resolutions have been used to justify and then settle the conflict. Overlooked amongst this has been Article 50 of the United Nations Charter, which awards compensation to countries who are disadvantaged as a result of Security Council decisions. Article 50 should be implemented in respect of those who lost economically as a result of sanctions and war. This would allow the aid to be non-discriminatory, to be mobilized quickly, and to have fewer conditions attached to it, than if country-by-country requests were made to the World Bank. The money can be readily found. Firstly the World Bank (a U.N. institution) is recording record profits (due to high interest rates) and could be instructed to apply a proportion of these to a special fund to assist Gulf war-afflicted economies. Secondly the major oil exporters experienced a windfall with a jumpy market forcing oil prices up after the invasion of Kuwait in August last year. These governments could be asked for additional pledges to the International Development Agency.

The impact of the Gulf crisis would be severe enough for many developing countries, forcing them to seek loans and aid. However, for some of those in sub-Saharan Africa, it comes on top of a catastrophic drought and the cost of internal conflict. Sudan has 8 million people facing starvation, and needs 1.2 million tons of food aid immediately. This is not forthcoming from a world community distracted and disinclined to focus attention on Africa. Ethiopia has 6 million people at risk and needs almost 1 million tons of food. Indica-

New scientific theory waiting in the wings

by Carol White

While conflicting claims about cold fusion are the most dramatic example of experiments awaiting an adequate theory, they are by no means the only case. For example, scientists at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) have produced a bubble of nitrogen gas, which can be made to oscillate and emit extraordinary light flashes. What is involved here is a phonon-photon interchange, in which sound waves are used to generate light pulses of extraordinary intensity.

This is known as sonoluminescence, and the phenomenon has been observed for more than 50 years. New diagnostics, however, have shown remarkable results. Light flashes are emitted from the bubble, which occur over the extremely short time-frame of less than 100 picoseconds (one-trillionth of a second), much shorter than the duration of the sound wave which generates it.

The work was reported at a meeting in Baltimore, Maryland of the Acoustical Society of America held during the first week of May. What occurs is an oscillation by the bubble, which operates like a switch; however, the surprising development is that the switching takes place 10,000 times more rapidly than would have been predicted.

Seth Putterman, a physicist who led the UCLA team, calls the results "spectacular." Considering that they are seeing energy densification in the range of trillionths of a second, 1 billion times shorter than the sound wavelength, this is not hyperbole. A single nitrogen bubble is trapped by a 20-kilohertz sound field in a mixture of water and glycerine. Their experiment was built upon observation of the time necessary for the light pulse to build up, and the time involved during the emission of the light.

The techniques which have allowed scientists to observe this phenomena were developed at the University of Mississippi at Oxford by Felipe Gaitan and Lawrence A. Crum. What they found was that the light is emitted at the point of maximum compression of the bubble. After emitting light,

the bubble waits to again rhythmically synchronize with the sound field. The bubble will shrink and expand several times during any given sound-wave cycle, but it will only emit light one time per sound cycle.

Sound energy is apparently absorbed by the bubble as it expands to its maximum size. Then, as it contracts, it delivers this energy in a focused way to a small number of atoms or molecules enclosed in the bubble. Out of this compression a lasing type of phenomenon occurs, with the atoms becoming excited and emitting short pulses consisting of about 1 million photons.

One might expect that the bubble would be destroyed after the light was emitted, but this is not the case. The bubble can oscillate over periods of hours or even days. As yet there is no adequate theory to explain this. Should researchers find that the emission of light occurs within 10 or fewer picoseconds, which some predict, then conventional scientific explanations will be overthrown.

The significance of these results is that they may tie in with phenomena otherwise observed in cold fusion experiments. The idea that a phonon-photon exchange in the palladium lattice is involved in cold fusion, is explored in some theories. Relevant points of comparison are the action of the palladium lattice in somehow allowing the absorption of energy into the deuterium gas over a considerable period of time, up to two weeks, before the emission of energy takes place.

It is also the case that the traditional explanation of low-temperature superconductors, which involves the formation of Cooper pairs, also involves a phonon-photon interchange. So far, this has not been observed in the higher-temperature superconductors, but it is attractive to suppose that cold fusion will some day be explained in terms which are coherent with the existence of both types of superconductor.

Clusters of ions and bubble phenomena have also been observed in "hot" fusion experiments. The question is whether these bubbles are compressible and act to pump out light. Some researchers not working on the project have hypothesized that the bubbles are acting like super-atoms which are undergoing a lasing action.

One might also ask whether the emission of light by the "soap bubble" may not in turn interact with the propagation of the sound. In music, there is a phenomenon akin to lasing, used by *bel canto* singers, which allows the singer to focus his or her voice. This has led Lyndon LaRouche to assert that sound waves must fundamentally be electromagnetic in character.

tions are, however, that donors are prioritizing the Gulf States and Eastern Europe for aid provision, and are not prepared to augment their budgets to cope with Africa. So these nations end up as double losers. The war weakens

already-ravaged economies, and the war deflects away aid resources which they might otherwise have received.

Without such assistance, however, the list of war casualties could still yet grow.

Harvard study: Iraq faces public health catastrophe

At least 170,000 Iraqi children under five years of age will die as a result of the Persian Gulf war and the continuing U.S.-imposed sanctions, according to a Harvard medical team which conducted the first comprehensive survey of post-war Iraq. The team, which traveled throughout Iraq from April 28 to May 6, had virtually unlimited access to the medical facilities of every region of the country, as well as its water purification, sewage treatment, and electrical power plants. The team warned that cholera, typhoid, and gastroenteritis are now epidemic, and that "the state of medical care is desperate and—unless conditions substantially change—will continue to deteriorate in every region and at nearly every provider level."

Although the prestigious team, led by Dr. Megan Passey, publicly released a report on its findings at a May 22 press conference in Washington, D.C. warning of the catastrophe, its findings have been largely ignored. We present here excerpts from its 28-page report entitled "Public Health in Iraq after the Gulf War."

I) Mortality and morbidity

This study documents an emerging public health catastrophe in Iraq today. It concludes that infant and child mortality will double and that at least 170,000 children under five will die during the coming year as a result of the delayed affects of the Gulf Crisis. This conclusion is based on six factors.

First, mortality data, gathered in hospital visits, document a two- to threefold increase in infant and child deaths.

Second, morbidity data, gathered in visits to medical facilities, document the sudden onset of epidemics of gastroenteritis, cholera, and typhoid throughout Iraq during early 1991.

Third, the incidence of these water-borne diseases typically peaks during the hot summer months of June and July, so that the epidemics which began months earlier will most probably worsen.

Fourth, severe malnutrition, previously uncommon, is now widespread in pediatric wards in all regions of the country.

Fifth, the health system is operating at a fraction of its pre-

Gulf Crisis capacity. Many hospitals and community health centers have closed, and there are acute shortages of medicine, staff, and equipment.

Sixth, basic infrastructure in water purification, sewage treatment, and electrical power generation operate at substantially reduced levels. Many facilities appear to have been damaged beyond repair and will have to be entirely rebuilt.

A) Mortality data

Mortality data for children were gathered at four different hospitals (see **Figure 1**).

At the Erbil Pediatric Hospital, the director, Dr. Jamal Jaafar, reported that the rate of children dying in the hospital itself rose from 56 per month in April 1989, to 150 per month in April 1991. Pediatricians interviewed at Erbil stated that, since the Gulf War began, most children have died at home rather than at the hospital. Thus, the figures for deaths at Erbil Hospital in 1991 may greatly understate the total number of deaths, both at home and the hospital.

B) Morbidity data

Morbidity data for gastroenteritis, cholera, and typhoid were gathered from hospitals and community health centers in all regions of the country. Morbidity is almost certain to worsen during the warmer summer months.

2) Cholera

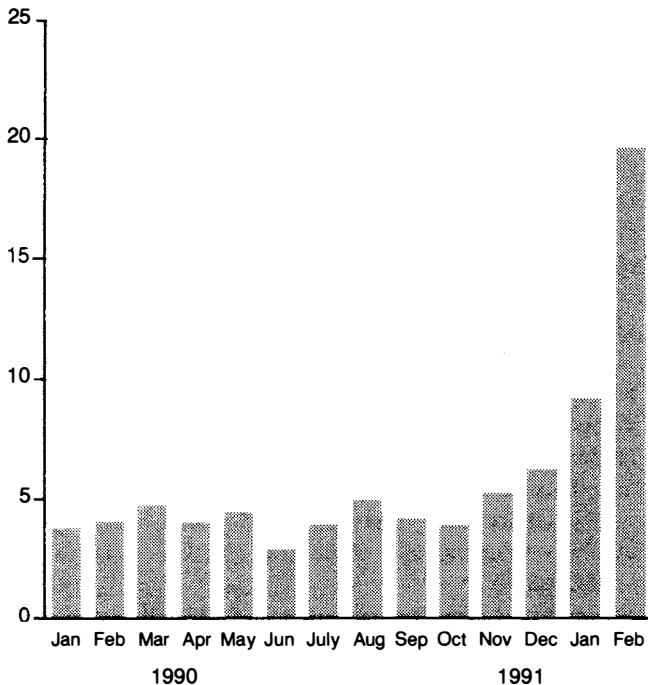
Although cholera is endemic to Iraq, prior to the Gulf Crisis its incidence was insignificant. Cholera has now reached epidemic proportions.

Al Qadisia hospital in Baghdad reported 30-35 cases of cholera a week in April 1991, compared to 2-3 per week at the same time last year. Several weeks before the study team's arrival, this hospital opened a special isolation ward for suspected cholera cases, reflecting the striking increase in the number of cases.

Governments are frequently loath to report cholera because its existence may reflect an inability to meet basic health and sanitation needs. The study team believes that it was denied access to the Ebnil Qatib Infectious Disease

FIGURE 1
Admission mortality rate, Saddam Central Pediatric Hospital

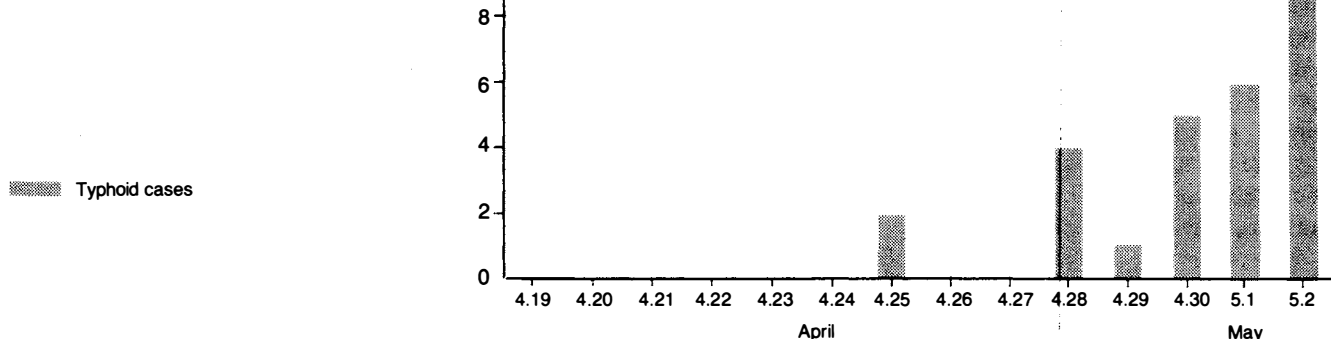
(children under 5) Admission mortality rate



Hospital in Baghdad because the government did not wish the team to observe cholera cases of epidemic proportions. The study team therefore suspects a high degree of under-reporting of cholera by all other medical facilities where the team was granted access to interview staff and to examine medical records.

FIGURE 2
Sulamaneiya Pediatric Hospital, new cases of typhoid, April-May 1991

No./day



3) Typhoid

Typhoid is endemic to Iraq but, since the Gulf Crisis, has also become epidemic throughout the country. The study team directly observed and confirmed numerous cases in Baghdad, Basrah, Erbil, Kerbala, Kirkuk, and Sulamaneiya.

At the Sulamaneiya Pediatric Hospital, Dr. Moodie and Ms. Benjamin examined hospital admission records and documented a dramatic rise in the number of children admitted with typhoid during April and early May of 1991 (see Figure 2). Their figures record the onset of an epidemic. . . .

Physicians in every region of the country report a shortage of chloramphenicol, the standard typhoid medication. In addition, these physicians report that because of supply shortages they were forced to discharge typhoid patients who were not yet cured and thus remained infectious. This practice increases the likelihood of the disease spreading among the general population.

4) Morbidity will worsen this summer

The increase in morbidity rates for cholera, typhoid, and gastroenteritis during March, April, and May of 1991 is especially ominous. Generally, water-borne diseases peak in June or July with the onset of hot summer weather. This study documents a sudden rise in the incidence of these diseases, due to contaminated water and untreated sewage, well before the effects of summer heat. Morbidity, and hence mortality, will most probably worsen during the summer.

C) Malnutrition

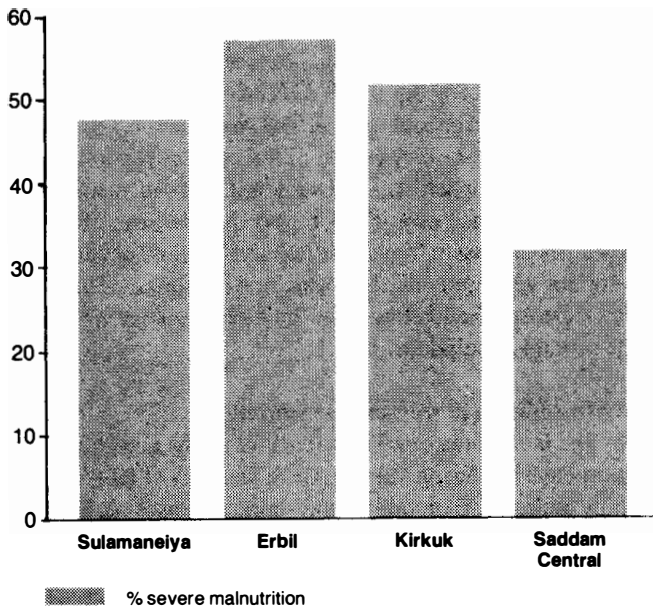
Iraqi physicians interviewed at 15 hospitals and seven community health care centers stated that severe malnutrition was uncommon in Iraq during the last decade. . . .

The prevalence of acute severe malnutrition was so high as to suggest the real possibility of famine in Iraq if conditions do not substantially change (see Figure 3). Hospitals today

FIGURE 3

Pediatric inpatients—Iraq: severe malnutrition in children under 5

% inpatients with severe malnutrition



are unable to adequately treat malnutrition because of acute shortages of food and infant formula. Most of these children will die from gastroenteritis, cholera, or typhoid in combination with malnutrition.

D) Conservative nature of the estimate that child mortality will double

This study concludes that the child mortality rate today is at least double and that at least 170,000 children will die in the coming year from the delayed effects of the Gulf Crisis.

The most recent available estimate of Iraq's pre-Gulf Crisis child mortality rate is 52 per thousand ("United Nations Children's Fund and World Health Organization, 1990 National Survey on Vaccination, Diarrhea, and Child and Maternal Diseases in Iraq," [1990]). Doubling that figure produces a post-Gulf War mortality rate of 104 per thousand.

Applying this derived mortality rate to the 3.3 million Iraqis under five, this study estimates that 55,000 additional deaths of children under five have already occurred. Applying this mortality rate for the coming year, this study projects at least 170,000 additional child deaths because of the delayed effects of the Gulf Crisis.

The conservative nature of this figure of 170,000 additional child deaths can be understood by focusing on gastroenteritis. Before the Gulf Crisis in 1990, about 50,000 children a year in Iraq died from gastroenteritis. Current hospital data show a twofold to tenfold increase in the number of children admitted with this disease. These data also show

more than a doubling of the rate of child death in hospitals from all causes, including gastroenteritis.

In other words, at least twice as many children are admitted to hospitals with gastroenteritis, and of those admitted, at least twice as many die as before. Therefore, since there were 50,000 child deaths each year from gastroenteritis before the Gulf War, four times as many, or an additional 150,000 child deaths from this disease can be expected in the coming year, unless conditions change.

To repeat, this figure of 150,000 additional deaths is for gastroenteritis alone. This figure does not include deaths from malnutrition, respiratory disease, or other common child illnesses. Hence, the estimate of 170,000 additional child deaths is probably low.

II) Functioning of the medical system

... As of 1990, Iraq had a nationwide network of 131 hospitals and 851 community health centers which provided comprehensive health services to both urban and rural populations. This health care system reached more than 90% of the population. ...

The study team estimates that the Iraqi health system currently functions at a fraction of its capacity before the Gulf Crisis.

Iraqi physicians reported that many hospitals and community health centers were severely damaged either in the Gulf War or during the civil uprisings that followed. These reports were confirmed by the study team's own on-site inspections of medical facilities in Al Najaf, Basrah, Kerbala, and Kirkuk.

For example, in Erbil, only five out of 42 community health centers are presently functioning, and in the Sulamaneiya area, only six out of 20. In Basrah, only five out of 19 community health centers functioning before the Gulf Crisis are open today.

Those community health centers that are open are flooded with an unusually high number of patients. For example, physicians at Al Batein Community Health Center in Basrah reported that their facility, which normally serves 40,000 people, now serves 150,000. This overcrowding is due to the closure of other facilities, combined with the increases in gastroenteritis, cholera, typhoid, and malnutrition.

Hospitals and community health centers also lack reliable clean water, sewage disposal, and electrical power. Of the 16 functioning hospitals and community health centers that the study team surveyed, 69% have inadequate sanitation because of the damage to water purification and sewage treatment plants. There is not enough electricity for operating theaters, diagnostic facilities, sterile procedures, and laboratory equipment.

Staff at every health facility visited reported severe shortages of anesthetic agents, antibiotics, intravenous fluids, infant formula, needles, syringes, and bandages. Existing stores of heat-sensitive vaccines and medicines

have been depleted by the loss of electrical power for refrigeration. . . .

III) Sanitation: water purification and sewage treatment

The mortality and morbidity patterns described in Section One and the deterioration of the medical system described in Section Two reflect the breakdown of sanitation in two key areas: water purification and sewage treatment.

A) Water purification

Iraq's entire system of water purification and distribution relies on electricity. Electricity is necessary to power water treatment plants and to pump water throughout the country. With the destruction of the country's electrical power plants in the Gulf War, Iraq's water purification and distribution system came to a virtual standstill. While some water purification facilities are now operational, much of Iraq still lacks clean drinking water.

B) Sewage treatment

Like the water purification system, Iraq's system of sewage treatment is entirely dependent on electrical power. Sewage plants pump wastes from homes and factories, treat the raw sewage, and discharge the treated sewage to rivers for disposal. With the incapacitation of the electrical system, raw sewage either backs up in homes and streets or flows into the Tigris, Euphrates, and other rivers.

In Baghdad, there are two sewage treatment facilities that serve Baghdad and the surrounding areas. A law student member of the study team who speaks Arabic, Ms. Sarah Leah Whitson, visited these facilities and interviewed sanitation engineers.

During the first week of the Gulf War, both plants ceased operation due to the lack of electricity and resorted to discharging raw sewage directly into the Tigris River. Later during the war, one of the two facilities was bombed and completely destroyed. With the resumption of some electrical generating power, the surviving plant, which treats about 50% of the area's sewage, resumed operation. Much of Baghdad's raw sewage continues to be discharged into the Tigris, polluting the drinking water of densely populated areas of Southern Iraq.

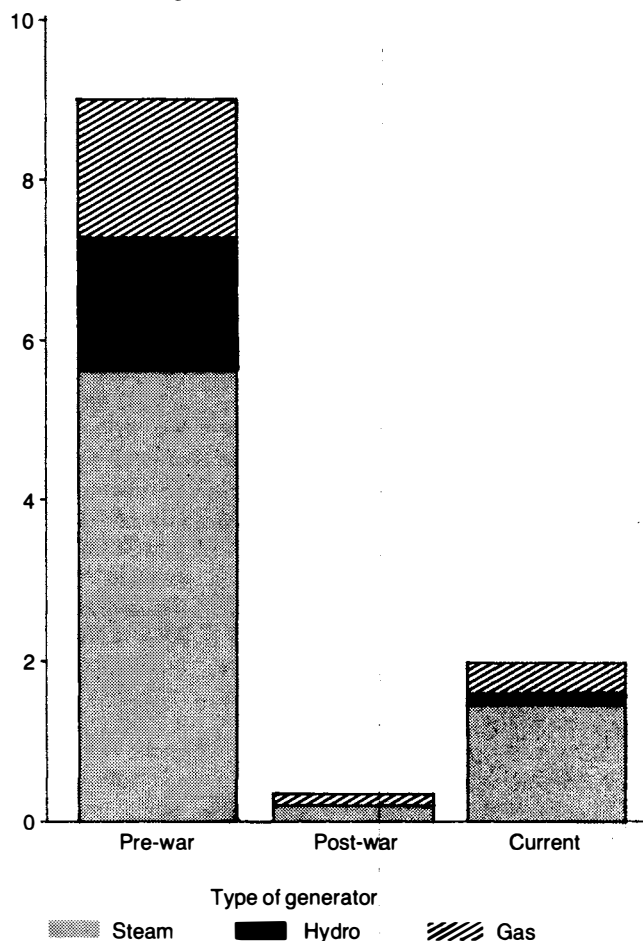
In Baghdad, Basrah, and Kirkuk, the study team observed neighborhood streets filled with foul-smelling and unsanitary sewage and other wastes. Children walked and played in stagnant, waste-contaminated pools of water. Garbage collection also ceased due to a shortage of fuel for trucks, and consequently streets are littered with rubbish.

IV) Electrical power and public health

A) The destruction of Iraq's power system

Virtually all of Iraq's electrical power is supplied by 20 generating plants. These plants are connected through a

FIGURE 4
Capacity of power stations by time period and type of generator
(thousands of megawatts)



network of 400 kilovolt transmission lines. Before the Gulf War, Iraq's total electrical generating capacity was about 9,000 megawatts (see Figure 4).

This system was incapacitated by bombing during the Gulf War. Within the first days of the war, 13 of Iraq's 20 power generating plants were incapacitated or destroyed. By the end of the war, only two of the country's power stations, generating less than 4% of Iraq's pre-war output, were in operation. Even today, months after the war is over, electrical output is still roughly only 22% of the pre-war level, despite the priority given to restoring the electrical generating system.

Iraqi engineers predict that little additional electrical power will be restored over the next year. Many generating facilities were destroyed beyond repair and will have to be entirely rebuilt. Damaged facilities can be repaired only through cannibalization of parts from other electric power plants, because sanctions prevent the import of spare parts.

Soviet agrarian crisis deepens

Despite emergency prescriptions by Gorbachov and the Supreme Soviet, things look grim for the spring planting.

The supply situation in Soviet food markets has stabilized since the drastic price rises which took effect on April 1, according to an announcement by the Soviet Internal Trade Ministry. But at what cost! True, the lines in front of the stores are shorter, since consumers can no longer afford most of what is for sale: The stabilization of the supply situation is exclusively the result of shrinking demand. Demand for sausage, which was hardly high before, plunged after prices more than tripled. Shoppers make do by choosing items which are even worse in quality and hence cheaper.

So far, many households seem to have lived to a considerable extent off products they bought before the price rise. Diners and restaurants are reportedly almost empty. The crowds have even thinned in the canteens; now only 20% of students take part in the school lunch program. At university cafeterias attendance has dropped off 60%, in trade union canteens, 50%.

No improvement is in sight. Spring planting is occurring under significantly worsened conditions. Many fields could not be harvested last fall, let alone newly seeded or even tilled for the planting. At least a fourth more money than usual will be needed for labor and machinery, the word is in Moscow. In many regions, especially in the non-black-earth zones in north-west European Russia, heaps of straw still lie in the fields or last year's crop is still on the stalks.

Retrieval will not be easy, since many tractors and machines are in disrepair. Nationwide only some 83% of

the needed equipment is operable, Moscow sources say. Getting new equipment to the farm collectives and *soviets* has been slowed by the ongoing strike. Things are so obviously critical that the Soviet cabinet and President Gorbachov have gotten involved with the spring planting. In a presidium statement on "Urgent Measures in Agriculture" Gorbachov said the situation was stretched to the limit. Meanwhile, the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet put out a decree on preparation for agricultural work, which speaks of a total crisis in economic as well as social relations in agriculture.

Both documents advance emergency measures. Gorbachov even speaks of mandatory steps to enforce government orders. Industrial trade union leaders and labor collectives will face sanctions if they don't meet their quotas for production for agriculture. Both statements devote much space to the supply of rolling stock, building materials, and manpower in the peak periods, as well as cash. Measures are also taken to divert investments planned for industry into agriculture and food processing. Despite its own huge problems and deficits, the distribution sector is ordered to put the machinery, spare parts, and fuel it had contracted for at the disposal of agricultural sector. Farm machinery manufacture in the future will receive priority on raw materials, so as to produce more combines and harvesting machines, for example.

The crop protection situation is disastrous. The needs for all field crops taken together are reportedly only half

covered, and for single crops such as potatoes, rapeseed, and cotton, only 10-15%. The shortage of wheat-rust fungicide alone, threatens crop losses of some 20 million tons of wheat, 30 million tons of sugar beets, and 40 million tons of potatoes. Gorbachov stated that 210 million rubles must be immediately earmarked to buy pesticides.

With such shortages, grain has become a kind of money. The regime ordered that cereals, legumes, and fodder can be sold against freely convertible currencies in the farm collectives and farm *soviets*. Thus, grain acts like a currency, traded directly against machinery, spare parts, fuel, etc. At some grain auctions, businesses offer even passenger cars in barter.

Private farms must also be given more operating means in the future, says the Supreme Soviet document. Already this year, production of smaller and medium-sized wheeled tractors will be significantly increased. Gorbachov in his decree told the republics to pass resolutions to allow private operators as many fields as they ask for, even fields which are used by collectives. The private farmers are to be supported in making these fields usable, so that possibly already this year crops can be harvested, the decree says.

The insight that the farm sector must be privatized if the eternal shortages are ever to end is growing slowly, but it is growing. Rural folk are far ahead of the politicians in this respect. According to Moscow statistics, there are now in the Soviet Union 47,000 private farms, against 21,000 a year ago. Private owners are now working 700,000 hectares of land. And 18.5 million families belong to small garden cooperatives. Nationwide there are 8,500 new voluntary agricultural associations, which work for themselves. Others are being founded.

Insurance giant bites the dust

The failure of Monarch Life marks a new phase of the collapse of the U.S. real estate markets.

The relentless collapse of the Reagan-Bush real estate bubble, which has left the corpses of hundreds of banks and savings and loan institutions in its wake, has now claimed a major insurance company.

Unlike the recent failures of First Executive and First Capital, which were brought down by their huge portfolios of junk bonds, the May 30 seizure of Monarch Life Insurance Co. was directly caused by real estate losses.

The Massachusetts-based Monarch, until recently one of the nation's largest life insurance companies, got into trouble last fall, when its parent, Monarch Capital Corp., defaulted on a \$235 million loan from a syndicate headed by Chase Manhattan Bank. Monarch Capital had pledged the stock of Monarch Life as collateral.

To head off an involuntary bankruptcy filing by the bank syndicate, the Massachusetts Division of Insurance put Monarch Life into temporary receivership. The company will continue to meet its obligations to its 250,000 policyholders, the state said.

The problems at Monarch Capital began in 1987, when the stock market crash and tax-law changes diminished the market for variable life insurance, Monarch Life's primary product. To compensate, the parent company increased its investments in real estate projects. That decision left Monarch Capital floundering in a sea of red ink, with losses of over \$570 million since late 1989.

The devastating decline in the value of real estate was underscored by a report from the Mortgage Bankers

Association of America, showing that the equity which Americans have in their homes had dropped \$363.4 billion during 1990, a staggering 16% drop. Of the decline, \$288.9 billion was due to increases in mortgage debt and \$74.5 billion was due to declining property values. The amount of money borrowed against the average U.S. home rose to 57.5% of its value, nearly half again as much as the 36-40% range which prevailed over most of the last two decades.

A great percentage of this new mortgage debt represents second mortgages, mortgage refinancing, and home equity loans. One of the fastest-growing components of this new debt is home equity lines of credit, a sort of revolving credit line commonly used to pay for consumer purchases. Home equity lines of credit outstanding totaled more than \$100 billion at year's end.

At the same time that millions of desperate homeowners are hocking their homes to pay their bills, the default rate on residential mortgages is zooming. According to the Mortgage Bankers Association, delinquencies on residential mortgages rose to 4.95% in the first quarter of 1991, compared to 4.71% at the end of 1990—more than 2.3 million homeowners.

Thanks to skyrocketing bankruptcies and defaults, U.S. banks have inherited massive inventories of seized properties, known in banking jargon as Other Real Estate Owned, or OREO. OREOs held by U.S. banks have grown to more than \$22 billion, from \$11.2 billion two years ago, ac-

ording to Sheshunoff Information Services.

The banks have only two choices when dealing with OREO: They can either sell the properties at cut-rate prices and take massive losses—and often immediate insolvency—now, or they can hold on to them and go broke later. Either way, most of the nation's bigger banks are already bankrupt.

Take Citicorp, for example. The bank's non-performing real estate loans rose 120% in 1990, to nearly \$2.6 billion, and its portfolio of foreclosed properties rose 79% to \$1.3 billion, according to Salomon Brothers. The giant bank has reported losses of nearly \$5 billion in the last two years, and added another \$3 billion to its Third World loan loss reserves, but that is merely the tip of the iceberg.

Citicorp is not alone. During 1990, non-performing real estate loans jumped 462% at Republic New York, 268% at Manufacturers Hanover, 245% at Bankers Trust, and 125% at Chase Manhattan. Reflecting this rapid deterioration, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. has increased its projections on the number of banks to fail in 1991 and 1992. The agency had previously forecast between 340 and 440 failures, while insisting that the lower figure was the more likely. However, FDIC official John Bovenzi told the House Ways and Means Committee May 29, "Our present expectations place us somewhere between the two scenarios."

Two days later, the FDIC seized the \$10 billion Goldome, of Buffalo, New York, in the largest savings bank failure ever. The insolvent bank—its capital stood at negative \$452 million at the end of 1990—had been on the FDIC's zombie list for months. The FDIC projects a net cost of \$930 million to close Goldome, making it the sixth most costly failure in the agency's history.

Sell the economy to pay the debt

Did the U.S. invasion really make Panama safe for the Nazi economics of the new world order?

Panama's Second Vice President Guillermo "Billy" Ford, announced a new economic plan on May 16. The plan would:

- Destroy production for local consumption; the only industrial production to be allowed is that intended for export. This will be carried out in "special economic zones" to be set up for *maquiladora*-style assembly plants under foreign ownership. There, the norm will be the Auschwitz-like conditions on the U.S.-Mexican border, under Bush's North American Free Trade Agreement. The right to collective bargaining will be suspended, and businesses will be "granted three years of operations without being required to negotiate" a labor contract, said Ford, who is also minister of planning and finance.

Negotiations are under way to set up one of these foreign enclaves, on six square miles of land in Farfán, on the Pacific entrance of the Panama Canal, which the U.S.-installed government will cede to the Ganun Group of Taiwan, according to *El Panamá América*.

While officials bend over backward to meet these colonialist demands, everything possible is being done to ensure no one can produce even a match-stick for local use. The plan announced by Ford, a banker tied to drug money-laundering enterprises, demand slapping a 3% tax on "the importation of equipment and capital goods for the industrial sector," a first for Panama.

Also, "The government, with technical assistance from the World

Bank, will draft an agricultural liberalization program," Ford said. This will mean the "disappearance of the country's farmers," said José Calderón, head of an agricultural cooperative.

- Lower taxes for the rich by 15% and increase taxes on those least able to pay, by creating a 10% "luxury tax" on all services, including your local fast-food meal for the family.

- "Eliminate early retirement," raise the retirement age by 5 to 10 years, increase Social Security taxes, and reduce pension and survivors' benefits.

- Slash the number of government employees and cut the wages of those remaining by at least 10%.

- "Privatize state enterprises." The Port of Balboa, on the Pacific entrance of the Panama Canal, will be handed to foreign concessionaires, according to *El Panamá América*. So too with Cristóbal, on the Caribbean, and 10 other state-owned enterprises, including the Colón Free Zone, and the electric, water, and telephone companies. All are being "privatized" to comply with demands made by the World Bank.

The aim is not to make the companies more efficient, although that's the line being put out for public consumption. For example, the state-owned telephone company, Intel, established by the previous military governments, operates one of the best telephone systems in the Third World, if not the whole world. The only thing privatization will accomplish, is what happened to the U.S. telephone system following "deregulation": Service de-

teriorated and prices went up.

The "goal of privatization is to reduce the nation's debt, by the revenues generated by the state, through the sale of state-owned property," according to a report issued by Panama's Comptroller General Rubén Darío Carles.

In fact, all of the measures of the plan are aimed at servicing Panama's \$6 billion debt. Privatization will also speed up the process of colonizing the country, which started with the 1989 U.S. invasion. As one businessman told the May 17 London *Financial Times* regarding the privatization of Mexico's telephone company, "Buying a country's telephone company is as close a proxy to buying its economy as possible."

There is nothing "new" in the plan announced by Ford; it is a rehash of the flea market nostrums that former World Bank official Nicolás Ardito Barletta tried to impose while he was President of Panama. Barletta was forced to resign by popular demand in 1985, after Panamanians rejected his schemes to collect debt on behalf of his foreign patrons. Then, Gen. Manuel Noriega refused to use the Army against the people on Barletta's behalf, crossing the establishment and initiating the process that led to the invasion.

Now, having taught Noriega and the Panamanians a bloody lesson, and with his Army in control of Panama, Bush is ready to try again. But not everyone is sure the U.S. will be more successful this time.

One doubter is First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderón. Arias, according to U.S.-installed President Guillermo Endara, initially backed the program, but now he is against it. Many think the opportunist Arias believes Endara will go the way of Barletta, leaving the presidency for Arias.

'One big maquiladora'

The maquiladoras are increasingly being called by their new name, "aniquiladoras" — "annihilators."

In a late-May interview with the *Journal of Commerce*, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari took up the question of the *maquiladoras*, the slave labor assembly plants currently centered along the Mexican-U.S. border. Within the framework of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), he stated, "we will seek to have *maquiladoras* installed in other areas in the interior of the country, and not only in the border with the U.S., because we don't want people to move to the *maquiladoras*, but that these industries be located where the people are."

According to the newspaper, Salinas de Gortari "rejected the idea that cheap labor would remain Mexico's principal advantage vis-à-vis the United States."

His statements were evidently intended for foreign consumption, since no one inside Mexico believes them. *EIR* has sampled numerous businessmen in Mexico, and almost to a man, they oppose NAFTA, saying that already, free trade is wreaking havoc with their businesses.

Even the anecdotes indicate the Mexican people know that the *maquiladoras* are nothing but the *aniquiladoras* or *troqueladoras* (stamping presses) of Mexican workers.

The London *Financial Times*, delirious that under the NAFTA accord "the whole country would eventually have duty-free status, allowing Mexico to exploit its labor cost advantage vis-à-vis the United States," was forced to recognize on June 3 that the "transformation of Mexico into one big *maquiladora*

provokes fears among Mexicans that low wages, environmental degradation, and domination by foreign capital will be perpetuated."

In 1990, of the total number of *maquiladoras*, 21.4% were producers of electrical materials (electronics and domestic appliances principally), employing some 221,000 workers, 46% of the total *maquiladora* work force.

The soldering of microcircuitry is done at high temperatures in so-called "hot rooms." In precarious working conditions and without adequate protection, the majority of these workers soon suffer from severe myopia or even blindness, as the soldering points are worked on while looking through powerful magnifying glasses. Many also suffer arthritis or rheumatism as a result of the frequent changes in temperature. Lung illnesses also are prevalent from constantly inhaling the fumes emitted by the hot solder.

Textile products are produced in 15.2% of the firms, which employ 19,000 workers, 4% of the total. Here, the most frequent accident which occurs is that workers' hands become trapped in the needles of giant sewing machines.

The social security offered by Mexico's Federal Labor Law is nonexistent for workers in the *maquiladoras*, and trade unions—where they exist—serve to suppress labor rights instead of defending the worker.

The lack of protection suffered by the *maquiladora* worker is such that the institution which has "the best statistics" of what occurs in these cheap-labor concentration camps is the Cath-

olic Church, the only institution where the mistreated worker can turn to at least take refuge in Christian charity.

A study carried out by Mexican businessmen in the state of Baja California Norte on the health of *maquiladora* workers, found the following results. In the case of those who do not suffer any accidents or quit work, the "useful lifespan," as it is euphemistically described, for any worker who remains in the *maquiladoras* is 1,825 working days (five years). After this period, virtually all are fired for illnesses which result from the hard, lengthy working day; the most frequent of these illnesses are deafness, blindness, varicose veins, rheumatism, and muscle pain.

Under these conditions, it is impossible to accumulate seniority and obtain a pension. According to the law in Mexico, retirement benefits are granted only after between 15 and 25 years of work.

An analysis of the composition of the *maquiladora* work force, shows that two-thirds of it are women, whose average age fluctuates between 16 and 19 years. The case of Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, is eloquent. There are 315 *maquiladoras* employing a total of 135,000 workers in this city, and 65% of them are women with an average age of 16 years!

Thus it is not an accident that statistics deal with the "useful lifespan," in which the working man or woman is treated like an animal or a machine. An adolescent of 16 years with a "useful lifespan" of five years, will become one more womb which will not reproduce itself.

The *maquiladora* is one more means to reduce the rate of demographic growth, except that with this method, before the women are annihilated, a certain amount of work can be extracted from them.

Business Briefs

Third World

SELA head says debt stalled industrialization

The head of the Latin American Economic System (SELA), Carlos Pérez del Castillo, blamed the debt crisis of the 1970s for the collapse of efforts to industrialize Ibero-America.

Pérez del Castillo recently told a pre-meeting of organizers for a SELA-sponsored regional conference on industrialization, to be held in Brasilia in August, that "This crisis led all governments to give priority to the creation of surpluses to finance debt service. As a result, investment in health, education, and training for the productive sectors—key elements in industrial development—collapsed."

Pérez del Castillo said that to restart industrialization, the continent would need more than trade openings, liberalization, and neo-liberal policies. "International financing, both of the commercial banks as well as foreign investment—either direct or through the international financial institutions—will be insufficient," he warned. The region, he said, must resort to internal savings of its own, which implies "reducing transfers abroad—currently one-fourth to one-fifth of internal savings goes to debt service—and channeling them to production."

Soviet Crisis

Kohl proposes West rebuild infrastructure

Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany recommended a concerted Western effort to repair Soviet gas pipelines and railroads, in remarks to journalists during his flight back to Bonn from Washington May 22. According to the *Frankfurter Rundschau*, Kohl called for the "establishment of national and international consortia for repairing of damaged gas pipelines" which cause a loss of 40% of Soviet gas during transport. "Also, the railroad grid can be improved," the article noted from Kohl's

remarks.

Kohl's proposal for a kind of Marshall Plan for the Soviet Union fell on "deaf ears" in Washington, the article notes, and his call for U.S. agricultural aid to the Soviet Union was not received well either.

Science

Livermore asks upgrade of Nova Laser

Lawrence Livermore Laboratory officials have proposed that its Nova Laser be upgraded to 20 times greater energy by the end of the decade, to demonstrate controlled fusion, according to *Aviation Week*.

The \$400 million project has been recommended by the National Academy of Sciences and the Department of Energy for its laser fusion effort. The laser would be increased to the 1-2 megajoule level, high enough for ignition of fusion fuel pellets, according to the scientists, because of their innovations in pellet design.

Meanwhile, scientists at Los Alamos National Laboratory have discovered a way to predict geomagnetic storms in the Earth's atmosphere, to help prepare for power surges that can cause power blackouts and damage electrical equipment. Over 100 years ago, scientists observed that intense discharges of charged particles from solar storms had an impact on the Earth's ionosphere, but they have been unable to predict which of the many bursts of solar energy will affect the upper atmosphere.

Los Alamos scientists from the Space Plasma Physics Group have determined that the fast-moving ejections from the solar corona are the ones that produce geomagnetic storms near the Earth. These ejections often produce shock waves in the interplanetary medium, similar to sonic booms in the atmosphere. This solar wind, traveling 1-2 million miles per hour or more, compresses the Earth's magnetic field, causing the discharge of charged particles that creates the auroras and electrical surges.

The scientists examined the data from satellite observations of the Sun between 1978 and 1982, were able to determine the speed of the ejections, and have developed a way of predicting which solar coronal ejections will likely affect the Earth.

Energy

U.S. to build nuclear plant for Japan

The first order for a nuclear power plant manufactured in the U.S. since the mid-1970s has been approved by the Japanese government, according to the General Electric Co. Two GE units will be built for the Tokyo Electric Co. Demonstrative of the schedule possible without environmental sabotage, the plants are to come on line in 1996 and 1997.

General Electric will provide the reactors, the nuclear fuel, and turbine generators for the two plants. The contract is worth about \$1 billion. The reactors will be the new Advanced Boiling Water Reactor design, which has been under development at GE for 10 years. The units will produce 1,356 megawatts of power.

Currently, 28% of Japan's electricity is produced by nuclear power plants, and they plan to increase that to 40% by the end of this decade. In contrast, about 22% of U.S. electricity is nuclear-produced, but as virtually no new nuclear plants will be coming on line, while new capacity will be largely natural gas and coal, that percentage will be falling over this decade.

Consumer Debt

Credit cards are key source of bank income

The top 25 credit card issuers are committing "highway robbery" with the high interest rates they charge on outstanding balances, according to Bankcard Holders of America di-

Briefly

rector Elgie Holstein, UPI reported May 24. "Major banks are using profits from credit card operations to stem their flow of red ink," he said. "More than 70% of Citibank's current profits are attributed to their credit card operation. That's an astounding figure, especially when you consider the breadth of their operations."

Banks are able to make huge profits on their credit card operations because they let their computers decide who gets their cards, the *New York Times* reported May 23. More than 51% of the U.S.'s 200 million credit cards were subjected to computerized "behavior scores" by mid-1990, compared to 14% a year earlier, according to *Credit Card Management* magazine. Citicorp, which earned \$600 million on its credit card operations last year, even though the bank as a whole earned only \$458 million, adjusts its scores to reflect regional differences in incomes and demographics, the paper reported.

Last year, the First National Bank of Chicago used behavior scores to cancel 7,800 accounts and reduce the credit lines on 1,200 accounts by \$4.5 million in New England and the Mid-Atlantic states. The bank said bankruptcy filings among its New England customers rose 77% for the first nine months of 1990 compared to the same period in 1989, and personal bankruptcies rose 36% among its customers in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania—compared to a national average of 15%.

Eastern Europe

Economist warns against 'free market radicals'

Dangerous free market radicals will ruin the economies of Eastern Europe, warned Kasimir Laski, the president of the Vienna Institute of International Economic Research, at an event in the Austrian capital May 23.

Laski said that International Monetary Fund conditionalities on the economic reform process have caused a dramatic drop in industrial output and energy generation and affected other key sectors of the East European states. He charged the so-called "young reformers" with having no idea about capitalism nor about the IMF, nor any insight into Western econom-

ic policies; they are nothing but "dangerous radicals," who would lead their countries into economic catastrophe.

Laski lashed out, especially, against Harvard "free market" economist Jeffrey Sachs and his disastrous counsel to the Poles—the results of which can be "studied by anyone."

Another researcher working with the Vienna institute, Hubert Gabrisch, had attacked "monetarist programs" in Eastern Europe in an essay a week earlier, warning that continuing such programs would "lead the Eastern European countries into catastrophe" and soon "create Ibero-American conditions in these countries."

Infrastructure

Texas to build high-speed rail link

The Texas High Speed Rail Authority has awarded a \$5 billion contract for construction of a 590-mile high-speed rail link between Dallas to Houston. The new line, to be based on the decade-old French TGV train, will cut travel time between the two cities to one-and-a-half hours.

Expected to be on line in 1998, it will be within reach of two-thirds of the state's population; trains will travel at up to 200 miles an hour. (The French TGV has reached 320 miles per hour speeds.)

The consortium awarded the contract is led by the Montreal-based Bombardier firm, which has exclusive North American rights to the TGV technology. The track involves investments of \$4 billion.

Texas officials decided against an offer for the new German ICE system, because it has just begun operation and was considered untested, even as Germany is considering the more technologically advanced magnetic levitation system.

The era of the German high-speed ICE train was inaugurated in an official ceremony by President Richard von Weizsäcker in Kassel on May 29. The ICE will begin running on a regular schedule at an average speed of 250 kilometers per hour on June 2. An ICE version for freight transport will soon begin operation on the same route.

● **THE FRENCH** government will approve a plan to more than quadruple the country's high-speed rail network, according to the *Financial Times*. The plan calls for spending some \$42 billion in construction of 16 new lines for the highly successful high-speed TGV over the next 20 years. This will bring total TGV rail infrastructure to 4,700 kilometers.

● **U.S. WAGES** have fallen 12% to 1950s levels, according to Robert B. Reich in a commentary in the May 27 *New York Times*. He proposes an infrastructure building program, to be funded by taxing Social Security benefits as well as cuts in the military budget.

● **DR. MARCIA ANGELL**, *New England Journal of Medicine* executive editor, called in its May 23 issue for a nationally funded program for the medical care of AIDS sufferers, and "systematic tracing and notification of the sexual partners of HIV-infected persons and screening of pregnant women, newborns, hospitalized patients, and health care professionals."

● **ONE-THIRD** of East European and Soviet export earnings are absorbed by foreign debt service, according to a report of the OECD. The total debt of the former CMEA nations increased by more than 80% from 1985 to 1990, and stood at \$123 billion at the end of last year.

● **'WESTERN AID** to Eastern Europe has been a hoax," Prof. Silviu Brucan, former Romanian ambassador to the U.S., told an international conference sponsored by the Atlantic Commission and the Netherlands foreign minister. He said imposed "free market" and "privatization" policies were making Eastern Europe the "Latin America" of Western Europe.

● **MONGOLIA** has joined the IMF, and meat rationing has begun. Citizens are allowed approximately one-third their former ration of meat.

Uproar in Brazil against Bush's genocide policy

by Silvia Palacios

In contrast to the apparent calm of the *Pax Romana* imposed by the United States in the aftermath of the massacre in Iraq, the genocidal face of President George Bush's policies is being unmasked in Ibero-America as the leading feature of his "new world order." In Brazil, Mexico, and Colombia—three of the countries chosen as targets for destruction by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger—repudiation of the insane policy that demands a halt to population growth for reasons of U.S. "national security," has begun to spread, even reaching institutional levels.

Between 1974 and 1975, as *EIR* reported in our cover story of May 3, 1991, Kissinger collaborated with then-Director of Central Intelligence George Bush in ordering the secret implementation of an explicitly malthusian policy designed to reduce the populations of 13 Third World nations, both directly by affecting fertility, and indirectly by undermining their economies.

EIR's revelations were quickly circulated in Brazil among leading political, military, and church circles. The story of the secret U.S. plan, prepared by Kissinger through the U.S. National Security Council and codified as NSSM-200, unleashed a wave of denunciations throughout the country, with major repercussions inside the National Congress. "It looks like it's going to be an avalanche," was the commentary of one veteran Brazilian politician.

That Bush's fascist policies continue to provoke outcries is exemplified by the way the Brazilian press has covered recent statements by the malthusian William Draper, director of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). "The country is pressured to reduce its birth rate," was the May 26 headline of *Jornal de Brasilia*, which went on: "Draper, an old friend of the U.S. President since the time that George Bush was a congressman, stated that developing countries are spending too much money on extravagant programs, instead of applying their resources to education, health, and family planning."

Draper's past involvement in population reduction schemes in Brazil surfaced

Covas quer a verdade sobre esterilizações

Rubem Azevedo Lima

Autor do pedido de CPI sobre controle da natalidade quando deputado em 1967, Mário Covas inteirou-se da liberdade secreta do governo norte-americano, sobre esterilização de mulheres brasileiras, anunciou que pedirá, no Congresso, o exame dessas papéis e o aprofundamento da investigação sobre o problema de

Jornal de Brasília

COLOMBIANO

Lo reveló IER USA Impuso a Colombia reducir natalidad

Documentos confidenciales del Consejo de Seguridad Nacional de los Estados Unidos emitidos en 1974 y desclasificados como documentos secretos por el gobierno norteamericano en 1989, 1990, e los que

lica no País, para participar dos programas de esterilização. O deputado repetiu a proposta e citou ao

O médico de Goiás, Semir Melou também, à época, denunciou a presença de estrangeiros no trabalho de esterilização, a longo da Belém-Brasília. "Praticava-se", disse ele, então, quase chorando — o pré-genocídio no Brasil, através de uma subsidiária do Institute of Planned Parenthood Foundation, a Associação de Bem-Estar da Família mantida, ao que explicou, com

Tendo percorrido o Brasil, no sentido Centro-Oeste ao Norte, Semir Melou constatou outra coincidência: enquanto entidades estrangeiras esterilizavam mulheres no

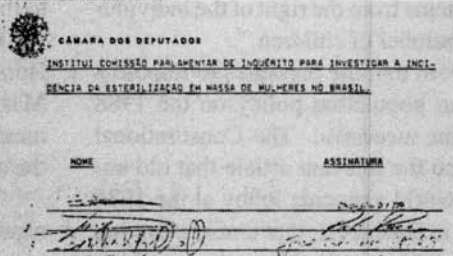
Brasil, EUA, e Geórgia (maior na pravam denúncias CPI), org iniciativ roldo reserva.

Segu respons ação fo nal de C tulas anti mecânic goe mi



Stuart Lewis

Henry Kissinger's policy of curbing Third World population growth for reasons of U.S. "national security," sparked an explosion in Brazil and other countries, after EIR put the story out a few weeks ago.



in the accusations that have recently been leveled against enemies of Brazil's growth as a nation. According to *Jornal de Brasilia*, Draper was mentioned by the Brazilian National Congress's 1967 Commission of Inquiry, which was charged with looking into foreign interference in domestic population matters. Draper was then a U.S. government official who, in his capacity as Assistant Secretary of State for Family Planning, had been promoting population control since 1965.

Benedita da Silva, federal congresswoman from Rio de Janeiro for the Workers Party (PT), has already pledged to append *EIR's* memorandum on NSSM-200 to the Brazilian congressional record. It was Da Silva who organized the call for a new congressional commission of inquiry into the mass sterilizations and other foreign interference in Brazil's population affairs, a call which has already been endorsed by 168 federal congressmen (see the interview with her, below).

A similar pledge was made by state congresswoman Lucia Souto, who presides over the Rio de Janeiro congressional commission of inquiry into the charges of a mass sterilization policy. According to the May 26 issue of the popular Rio daily *O Dia*, "Already included in the dossier being prepared by the Commission of Inquiry, the entire secret document was obtained by Congresswoman Souto, who hopes to expose the U.S. plan in all its details during a plenary meeting of the City Council, which will be launching the Commission of Inquiry in a public act."

Ceara, Bahía, and Mato Grosso are other Brazilian states where commissions of inquiry into these malthusian policies

of population control will be undertaken.

This "avalanche" responds to the fact that under the guidelines of the U.S. National Security Council, the Anglo-American elite has determined that Brazil not be permitted to reach the year 2000 with a population of 215 million, as had been forecast. This malthusian goal has already been met, thanks to a dramatic collapse in fertility, which led to the current 1.6% growth rate that has made Brazil an international "model" of population reduction, comparable only to Communist China.

"The most recent figures of IBGE [the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics] on the sterilization of women confirm the explosion of this kind of population control in Brazil, starting in the second half of the 1970s, the same period in which NSSM-200 went into effect in 13 Third World countries," reported *O Dia*.

Foreign role is denounced

This documented proof of an imperialist depopulation policy imposed on the country from without, has broken open a debate on the ambiguous article in the Brazilian Constitution which approves family planning. It has been widely noted that, in the text of that article, one can detect the handwriting of the Brazilian allies of the Kissinger-Bush malthusian perspective.

Well-known political commentator Rubem Azevedo Lima, who has conducted his own investigation into the genocide lobby operating in Brazil, charged on May 22 in an

article in *Jornal de Brasilia* that in 1989-89, the organization known as the Pathfinder Fund spent more than \$100 million to influence Brazilian congressmen, which resulted in the inclusion of "family planning" in the new Constitution then being written. This is revealed, according to journalist Azevedo Lima, by "the United Nations Fund for Population, in its inventory of population projects in the developing countries."

For certain, Azevedo Lima continued, "the confidential report prepared in 1974 at the behest of Secretary Henry Kissinger, shows that the U.N. organization was assigned a relevant role" in the execution of population policy.

Azevedo Lima further warned that the NSSM document clearly states, among other things, that "the United States could help to minimize suspicions that there is an imperialist motive behind its support for population activities, by stressing that the U. S. position stems from the right of the individual to freely determine the number of children."

In the end, it would seem that the pressures to impose a variant of the Kissingerian population policy on the 1988 Brazilian Constitution were successful. The Constitutional Assembly incorporated into the relevant article that old euphemism, offered by the world genocide lobby at the 1974 Conference on Population in Bucharest, that family planning entails "the free decision of the couple." In reality, nothing could be further from the truth.

The renewed debate on this constitutional article is especially important, given that it will shortly require enabling legislation, and the national malthusian lobby, anxious for Bush's favor, has launched a well-financed campaign urging approval for all forms of birth control, including abortion and a "moderate" form of mass sterilization. However, in light of the NSSM-200 revelations, this group of new world order adherents, among them old friends of the Anglo-American establishment and fervent propagandists for genocide, such as magnate Roberto Marinho, owner of the *O Globo* chain, and the Civita family, owners of *Veja* magazine, have for the moment been forced to pull in their horns.

Church condemns population 'imperialism'

Responding to the charge of mass sterilizations, an accusation made that much more dramatic by surreptitious efforts to legalize abortion and by Health Minister Alceni Guerra's statements that as many as 20-25 million women of child-bearing age may have been sterilized—many of them involuntarily—the Catholic Church in Brazil issued a strong condemnation at its annual meeting held in April in Itaici, São Paulo.

"In the name of the God of life, we are radically opposed to the plan to liberalize abortion. The alarming incidence of the criminal practice of abortion leads us to cry out, ever more loudly, on behalf of life. . . . Even more serious and criminal is the action which mutilates the source of life in men and women. Sterilization, especially on a mass scale, is

to be condemned, and worse, when it is done without the individual's consent. We further denounce the anti-natalist mentality which leads to the indiscriminate use of contraceptives, and even of abortives," says the document.

The Church's condemnation has intersected the commotion triggered by *EIR*'s revelations on the population policy of Bush's new world order.

Thus, the widely read Catholic newspaper *A Opinião*, published May 27 an exposé of the involvement of the International Monetary Fund, the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations, and the International Planned Parenthood Federation—which was created with the participation of President Bush's father, Prescott—in the plan to reduce Brazil's population. "The sums involved in the birth control programs are enormous. A conservative estimate indicates that between 1985 and 1988, private agencies sent more than \$50 million to the country," the article notes.

Referring to revelations made by the U.S. organization Human Life International, *A Opinião* says, "Father Paul Marx emphasized in 1985 that the Baker Plan, offered as a means of dealing with the Third World foreign debt, foresaw the adoption by debtor nations of birth control programs."

"Why," asks the report, "should these international organizations be interested in financing expensive family planning and birth control programs in Brazil? The answer suggests a geopolitical dimension: The countries of the First World are concerned with the advance of population growth, above all in poor countries. A demographic explosion could lead, in the medium and long term, to a greater challenge to unjust North-South relations, with serious consequences for world stability."

Church resistance to the malthusian policies of the superpowers became more vigorous not only in Brazil, but in other countries of the continent as well, after the Fourth Extraordinary Council of the Catholic Church, held in Rome the first week in April. The College of Cardinals denounced "the problem of threats against human life," a problem that ranges from the liberal philosophical justifications that permeate cultural life today, to the government policies that proclaim a total lack of respect for human life.

In his weekly column, Rio de Janeiro Archbishop, Cardinal Eugenio Sales wrote June 1 that "the Council, following a review of painful reality, reached the double conclusion of the absolute need to take a position that moves the conscience of humanity, and [to produce] a document which the majority preferred to be an encyclical, on the sanctity of human life and on the assaults committed today against it."

And, paraphrasing the message of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Cardinal Sales urged that proposals on abortion and euthanasia be presented to the legislature as "intrinsically immoral." He further urged the Congress, "from the political viewpoint, to expose the maneuvers of an imperialist Western society toward the countries of the Third World."

Brazil's Congress investigates mass sterilization of poor women

The following interview with Rio de Janeiro Congresswoman Benedita da Silva was granted to correspondents Silvia Palacios and Lorenzo Carrasco on May 27.

EIR: You have just asked the House of Deputies to create a Congressional Commission of Inquiry to look into the sterilizations which have occurred in Brazil. What caused you to do that?

Da Silva: In Brazil, there is a process of mass sterilization. The majority of those sterilized are in the 15- to 54-year-old age group, and most of them don't even know that they've been sterilized. In 1988, when we held the first seminar in São Paulo on female sterilization, we were horrified because a demographer presented data from the IBGE [Brazilian Statistical and Geographical Institute] on sterilization which indicated that, of women between the ages of 15 and 54 who were married, or had sex partners, and who used some kind of contraceptive, 33% were sterilized.

Since the country is going through a period of severe austerity, there are some people who want to resolve the poverty issue by sterilizing women. Business executives are also worried that the individual woman might hurt their company's growth, if she's out on maternity leave. Some Brazilian companies are demanding, as a guarantee, that a woman have her tubes tied—that is, that she be sterilized. The Women's Forum, government agencies, and others have demanded that this practice be stopped.

There is also enormous foreign intervention in the matter of sterilization here. The government went around signing agreements with foreign agencies which, in the name of the family's social welfare, were really massively sterilizing Brazilian women.

Just last week, I read in the papers that a United Nations agency was saying that demographic growth is a threat to development, and I became very worried.

It's well known that the United States has interfered in the question of birth control policy. I read in the *Jornal de Brasilia* about denunciations to the effect that the United States considers control of demographic growth to be of great strategic importance in developing nations—that is, in Brazil, Latin America, Africa.

The truth is, that people know that conditions don't per-

mit a family to have 5, 10, or 15 children as used to be the case. There is a willingness to plan the size of the family; but it is one thing to plan, and another thing to control—to the point of irrationally controlling the country's growth.

EIR: In an interview with *EIR* published March 8, Health Minister Dr. Alcení Guerra charged that a dozen foreign entities have financed sterilizations in Brazil. How is the Commission of Inquiry going to investigate these charges?

Da Silva: The commission will not only look into these denunciations, although these will be dealt with in the dossiers to be presented; we will also hear from the institution or the individual responsible for each policy; we will hear from the health minister because, at the same time, we want him to be conscious of the fact that there is foreign capital promoting sterilization in Brazil. Moreover, it is the government that signs the agreements—this isn't done surreptitiously; and I would like the government to show the commission those agreements, and contracts signed with several government and non-governmental agencies which have done research in the area of health in Brazil.

EIR: Are you going to call on ministers to testify?

Da Silva: We are going to call ministers, as well as directors of clinics, and of Bemfam [Brazilian Family Welfare Society]. . . . We'll also call on the Women's Forum; in short, everyone who is working in this area.

EIR: How will the commission use the results of the inquiry?

Da Silva: In a commission of this nature, [the results] are handed directly to the justice and the health ministers, and they will put them to use.

EIR: Since there is also an issue of foreign intervention, will you also subpoena the foreign minister?

Da Silva: Yes, of course.

EIR: Recently in the United States, a National Security Council memorandum—coded NSSM-200—was declassified; in it, then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger named 13 target countries, among them Brazil, for which drastic

population reduction was planned for reasons of U.S. "national security." Are you aware of these documents?

Da Silva: No, I didn't have them in hand, but now that I do, I'm going to have them entered into the congressional record. I'm also going to organize a debate on several levels: in the areas of education, health, the trade union movement, to give the largest possible dissemination to these documents and take whatever steps are necessary. I am also going to question the foreign minister regarding this document and ask which international agreements the government has signed.

EIR: You said that the International Monetary Fund made birth control programs one of its conditionalities.

Da Silva: Yes, I've said that the IMF has made a number of demands, and have learned that one of the IMF's clauses stipulates birth control [as a condition], and we're also looking for those documents. Should we obtain them, we would want to question the IMF also, because their attempts to interfere with our population know no limits. Brazil is at great risk, because things are done secretly; that is, it's almost impossible to gain access to the agreements which the Executive signs, because even Itamaraty [the Foreign Ministry] doesn't release the information.

EIR: In motivating the creation of the Commission of Inquiry, you said that there was racism behind the massive sterilizations. Can you explain that?

Da Silva: Not accidentally, the majority of women sterilized are poor and black, and most haven't gone beyond the first grade. This is an extremely interesting chain of events because, beyond the fact of black women being sterilized, there is also the issue of the extermination of infants and adolescents, which happens to occur, in large part, in the black community. What we're really talking about here is the extinction of a race—to the degree that you sterilize black women, you prevent black babies from being born.

EIR: What is the percentage of black women sterilized?

Da Silva: Within the universe of sterilized women, more than 60% of black women have been sterilized.

EIR: In the context of George Bush's new world order, we found in the U.S. Congress's *Congressional Record* that he was an enthusiast of the ideas of the racist William Shockley.

Da Silva: Yes, like all of his policies, what we're seeing on the race question is horrible. Consider what we just witnessed in the Mideast, the battle with Saddam Hussein. Bush went to great lengths to build up in the media the myth of an Iraqi war machine, and there was a total massacre. From his actions, you see that Bush is totally committed to that type of policy, one in which he thinks he's the ruler of the world. I think Bush's plan is to take over Latin America, and thereby control those countries with non-white populations.

EIR: When the U.S. invaded Panama, the greatest massacre of civilians occurred in poor, black neighborhoods.

Da Silva: This is ethnocide, right? A black population—a non-white population!

EIR: In several of the state legislatures, there are initiatives to set up commissions of inquiry on sterilization. Does the national Commission of Inquiry have any ability to coordinate with those local efforts?

Da Silva: The two go together. In the House, I will be receiving information from all of the state assemblies.

EIR: When will the Commission of Inquiry start functioning and how long will it last?

Da Silva: It can only be established after the leadership comes to an agreement; right now, we're approaching the leadership so that the commission can be installed immediately. Once the fact of its establishment is published, we have 90 working days. We are also in the process of setting up another commission, for the same time period, to investigate the extermination of infants and adolescents.

EIR: Kissinger, Brent Scowcroft and President Bush were the individuals in charge of implementing the malthusian policies outlined in NSSM-200. How do you view Brazil's relationship with the United States, considering that Bush himself was part of that team?

Da Silva: I see that Brazil has a very good foreign relations stance, in the sense that it maintains relations with many different countries; but particularly with regard to its relationship with the United States, Brazil has had a relationship of dependency, and I'm not very much in agreement with its closeness to Bush's policies.

One of the IMF's clauses stipulates birth control as a condition, and we would want to question the IMF also, because their attempts to interfere with our population know no limits. Brazil is at great risk, because things are done secretly.

Outrage spreads to Mexico and Colombia

by Carlos Wesley

The outrage against a U.S. government-sponsored population control program that caused millions of women to be sterilized in Ibero-America, has now spread beyond Brazil, to Mexico and Colombia. Those three countries were among the 13 Third World nations targeted by the U.S. National Security Council for population reduction, according to recently declassified NSC documents. Because of his role in the scheme, George Bush is becoming known as "The Sterilizer" all over Ibero-America.

In Mexico, the daily *Unomasuno* reported on May 23 that Brazil's Congress has launched an investigation of the U.S.-sponsored depopulation program. The report, based on a release by *EIR*, was accompanied by an *Unomasuno* editorial: "A New World Order of Sterilization." One is no longer surprised, it said, "by the malthusianism that guides the population policies imposed by the United States on Third World countries." But the millions of women sterilized in Brazil, "as revealed by Brazilian Health Minister Alenci Guerra to the American weekly *Executive Intelligence Review*, can only encourage reflection on the terms along which the relationship of our countries with the U.S. superpower should proceed."

The editorial stressed that one of the authors of this policy, which sterilized millions of women in Brazil and who "knows how many more women in the other 12 countries—including Mexico," was George Bush, "the same one who is now proclaiming a new era of hemispheric friendship."

In a statement issued on May 13, the Mexican Bishops Conference warned that large multinational pharmaceutical companies were preparing to invade Mexico with new and dangerous techniques for birth control and abortion. Church spokesman Genaro Alamilla blasted the United Nations, for first promoting genocide in the Persian Gulf, and now "the extermination of innocent beings in the maternal womb and the proliferation of abortive substances which destroy women during their productive years."

The Empire strikes back

This prompted a counterattack by the advocates of depopulation. The head of the United Nations Fund for Population,

Nafis Sadik, told Mexicans they'd better chop their rate of population growth from 2.1 to 1.1% in the next nine years—or else. She said that population control must be a higher priority than economic progress in Mexico.

On May 31, the press reported that the administration of Mexican President (and Harvard graduate) Carlos Salinas de Gortari said it would fulfill the United Nations' extermination demands—and more. Population growth will be cut to 1% by the year 2000, "whatever it takes," said Manuel Urbina Fuentes, head of Mexico's National Council on Population (Conapo). To get the extermination program on the fast track, Mexico will receive a huge influx of funds from the U.N., he said. A lot has been accomplished since "family planning" started in Mexico in 1974 (that was the year Henry Kissinger, Brent Scowcroft, and George Bush finished drafting the depopulation policy), but more is needed, he said. He announced a big push to increase both female and male sterilizations and said that a new contraceptive will be administered to women via monthly injection.

Fight joined by Colombian Church

On June 2 in Colombia, *El Catolicismo*, the paper of the Catholic Church, distributed in every parish during Sunday mass, published the full text of an *EIR* release on the Brazilian congressional investigation, under the headline, "The United States Supports Mass Sterilization Programs."

News on the NSC extermination plans was also published on the same day, June 2, in the Sunday edition of Medellín's *El Colombiano*, under the headline: "*EIR* Reveals: U.S. Imposed Population Reduction on Colombia." According *El Colombiano*, the depopulation plans were carried out "with abundant financing from official bodies, such as the USAID [U.S. Agency for International Development], and 'private entities' such as the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), whose Colombian subsidiary is the Association for the Welfare of the Colombian Family, Profamilia, the country's main birth control agency because of its distribution of contraceptives, and which is calling for the legalization of abortions."

Earlier Radio Caracol, Colombia's largest radio network, broadcast several reports on the secret NSC documents. An *EIR* representative, Patricia Paredes de Londoño, was interviewed on the NSC anti-population plans, on the "Noches, Buenos Días," a national nightly broadcast by Caracol. That was followed by interviews on May 29 and 30 with *EIR* representative Edilson Herrera, on the morning rush-hour news show on Noticias 1020, a Bogotá affiliate of the network. Herrera described the depopulation policy in detail, and he also reported that one of the main opponents of the depopulation programs, *EIR*'s founding editor Lyndon LaRouche, had been jailed by the same "administrative fascism" policies used by the Bush administration to implement the extermination programs against Iraq and the mass sterilizations in Ibero-America.

EIR, LaRouche's war with the malthusians

For two decades, Lyndon LaRouche and *EIR* have led a fight against the Anglo-American establishment, to defeat its genocidal policies of zero population growth in the Third World. Those nations require advanced technology and education in order to develop, to increase their potential relative population-density; instead, they have been subjected to austerity conditionalities, birth control programs, and "population wars," deliberately planned to keep the growth of their *non-white* populations in check.

For example, on March 10, 1981, *EIR* quoted Thomas Ferguson of the U.S. State Department's Office of Population Affairs, describing the proposed escalation of the civil war in El Salvador: "There were just too many goddamn people. If you want to control a country, you have to take the population down. Too many people breed social unrest and communism."

In the March 20, 1987 issue of *New Solidarity* newspaper, LaRouche wrote a commentary, "Malthusianism Is Genocide," which we excerpt here:

"An editorial in yesterday's *Washington Post* warns Brazil to cut its population, or else.

"Didn't we see enough of that in Nazi-occupied Poland? The *Post* evidently fails to grasp the point, that merely because 'neo-Malthusian population policies' have become fashionable among liberals, does not mean that genocide is anything but genocide.

"I suggest that the *Post* get off the airy realm of rhetoric,

and get down to Earth.

"If you wish to reduce the population of Brazil, please have the honesty to publish a list of the names and addresses of the Brazilians you wish to have eliminated. Have the decency to inform them of your intent to kill them, and at least do them the courtesy of offering to publish their reply in your newspaper. . . .

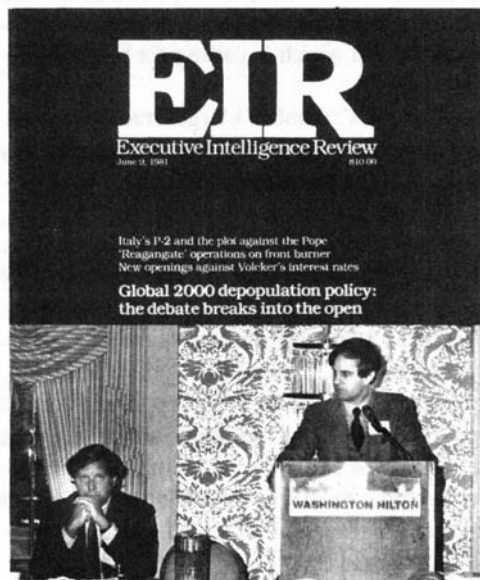
"In fact, the population-density of Brazil is about half that of the United States. Its natural resources are perhaps greater than ours. What is the difference, which allowed us to sustain our population more or less comfortably, up to 1967-71, and a Brazil with half that population-density today? The difference is chiefly a matter of basic economic infrastructure: water management, general transportation, energy production and distribution, and so forth. . . .

"Ah, but the *Post* insists this economic development must not be permitted to occur in Brazil!

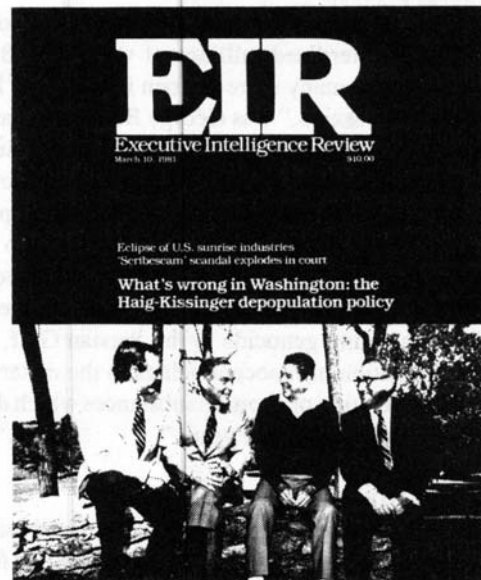
"So, the *Post* demands that the level of economic development be kept significantly below the level needed to maintain existing levels of the population. That means that the corresponding margin of population must die. In this paradisaical sea of death of 'the excess portion of the population,' the *Post* assures Brazil, the international loans will be forthcoming, to make Brazil once again a happy place for foreign tourists. Gee, fellas, that was exactly Adolf Hitler's policy for occupied Eastern Europe.

"It comes back to me, that the fellow who put Adolf Hitler into power was named Hjalmar Schacht, the leader of the liberals' party in Germany into the beginning of the 1930s. Since Schacht was let off at the Nuremberg Trial, maybe the *Post* thinks it's just good liberalism to propose genocide in Brazil. I guess that the *Post* thinks it's all right to propose genocide, as long as the orders are issued liberally.

"It's just the slobs who carry out the orders, who might get into trouble."



Starting in 1980, *EIR* exposed the Global 2000 plan for Third World genocide. In 1981, we reported that George Bush, Alexander Haig, and Henry Kissinger were part of a group that was secretly trying to peddle malthusianism to President Reagan, in the guise of "national security" considerations.



Ratzinger proposes doctrinal document on threats to life

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, gave the following address to a special meeting of the College of Cardinals on April 4.

I. Biblical foundations

To deal adequately with the problem of threats to life and to find the most effective way to defend human life against these threats, we must first of all determine the essential components, positive and negative, of the contemporary anthropological discussion.

The essential point of departure is, and remains, the biblical vision of man, formulated in an exemplary way in the accounts of creation. The Bible defines the human being in his essence (which precedes all history and is never lost in history) with two distinctive features:

1. Man is created in the image and likeness of God (Gen. 1:26); the second account of creation expresses the same idea, saying that man, taken from the dust of the earth, carries in himself the divine breath of life. Man is characterized by an immediacy with God that is proper to his being; man is *capax Dei* and because he lives under the personal protection of God, he is sacred: "If anyone sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has man been made" (Gen. 9:6). This is an apodictic statement of divine right which does not permit exceptions: Human life is untouchable because it is divine property.

2. All human beings are one because they come from a single father, Adam, and a single mother, Eve, "the mother of all the living" (Gen. 3:20). This oneness of the human race, which implies equality and the same basic rights for all, must be solemnly repeated and inculcated again after the flood. To affirm again the common origin of all men, the 10th chapter of Genesis fully describes the origin of all humanity from Noah: "These three were the sons of Noah, and from them the whole earth was peopled" (Gen. 9:19).

Both aspects, the divine dignity of the human race and the oneness of its origin and destiny, are definitively sealed in the figure of the second Adam, Christ: The Son of God died for all, to unite everyone in the definitive salvation of divine filiation. And so the common dignity of all men appears with total clarity: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus (Gal. 3:28).

This biblical message, identical from the first page to the last, is the bedrock of human dignity and human rights; it is the great inheritance of the authentic humanism entrusted to the church, whose duty it is to incarnate this message in every culture, and in every constitutional and social system.

II. Dialectics of the modern age

If we look briefly at the modern age, we face a dialectic which continues even today. On the one hand, the modern age boasts of having discovered the idea of human rights inherent in every human being and antecedent to any positive law, and of having proclaimed these rights in solemn declarations. On the other hand, these rights, thus acknowledged in theory, have never been so profoundly and radically denied on the practical level. The roots of this contradiction are to be sought at the height of the modern age: in the Enlightenment theories of human knowledge and the vision of human freedom connected with them, and in the theories of the social contract and their idea of society.

The fundamental dogma of the Enlightenment is that man must overcome the prejudices inherited from tradition; he must have the boldness to free himself from every authority in order to think on his own, using nothing but his own reason. From this point on, the search for truth is no longer conceived of as a community effort, in which human beings joined in space and time help each other to discover better what is difficult to discover on one's own. Reason, free from any bond, from any relation with what is other, is turned back on itself. It winds up being thought of as a closed, independent tribunal. Truth is no longer an objective datum, apparent to each and everyone, even through others. It gradually becomes something merely external, which each one grasps from his own point of view without ever knowing to what extent his viewpoint corresponds to the object in itself or with what others perceive.

The same truth about the good becomes unattainable. The idea of the good in itself is put outside of man's grasp. The only reference point for each person is what he can conceive on his own as good. Consequently, freedom is no longer seen positively as a striving for the good which reason uncovers with help from the community and tradition, but is rather defined as an emancipation from all conditions which prevent each other from following his own reason. It is

termed *freedom of indifference*.

As long as at least an implicit reference to Christian values is made to orient the individual reason toward the common good, freedom will impose limits on itself in service of a social order and of a liberty guaranteed to all.

Thus, the great theories about liberty and democratic institutions, for example Montesquieu's, always suppose the recognition of a law antecedently guaranteed by God and of universal values which these institutions, by limiting individual liberties, conspire to have respected by those who permit them to be practiced in this way. In this dynamic, the great declarations on human rights were pronounced.

The theories of the social contract were founded on the idea of a law antecedent to individual wills which was to be respected by them. From the moment when religions showed themselves unable to guarantee peace, being rather a cause of war, theories of the social contract were elaborated at the end of the seventeenth century (cf. Hobbes): That which would bring harmony among men was a law recognized by reason and commanding respect by an enlightened prince who incarnates the general will.

Here, too, when the common reference to values and ultimately to God is lost, society will then appear merely as an ensemble of individuals placed side by side, and the contract which ties them together will necessarily be perceived as an accord among those who have the power to impose their will on others.

To illustrate one aspect of this dialectic between theoretical affirmation of human rights and their practical denial, I would like to refer to the Weimar Constitution of the first German republic of Aug. 11, 1919. This constitution does indeed speak of basic rights, but puts them in a context of relativism and of indifferentism regarding values, which the legislators considered to be a necessary consequence of tolerance, and therefore, obligatory. But precisely this absolutizing of tolerance to the point of total relativism also relativized basic rights in such a way that the Nazi regime saw no reason to have to remove these articles, the foundation of which was too weak and ambiguous to offer an indisputable protection against their destruction of human rights.

Thus, by a dialectic within modernity, one passes from the affirmation of the rights of freedom, detached from any objective reference to a common truth, to the destruction of the very foundations of this freedom. The "enlightened despot" of the social contract theorists became the tyrannical state, in fact totalitarian, which disposes of the life of its weakest members, from an unborn baby to an elderly person, in the name of a public usefulness which is really only the interest of a few.

This is precisely the striking characteristic of the great drift currently regarding respect for life: It is no longer a question of a purely individual morality, but one of social morality ever since states and even international organizations became guarantors of abortion and euthanasia, passing

laws which authorize them and providing the wherewithal for those who put them into practice.

III. The war on life today

If, in fact, today we can observe a mobilizing of forces for the defense of human life in the various pro-life movements, a mobilization which is encouraging and gives cause for hope, we must nevertheless frankly realize that till now the opposite movement has been stronger: the spread of legislation and practices which voluntarily destroy human life, above all the life of the weakest—unborn babies. Today we are the witnesses of a true war of the mighty against the weak, a war which looks to the elimination of the disabled, of those who are a nuisance and even of those who are poor and "useless," in all the moments of their existence. With the complicity of states, colossal means have been used against people at the dawn of their life, or when their life has been rendered vulnerable by accident or illness, or when it is near death.

A violent attack is made on developing life by abortion (with the result that there are 30 million to 40 million a year worldwide), and to facilitate abortion millions have been invested to develop abortifacient pills (RU-486). Millions more have been budgeted for making contraception less harmful to women, with the result that most chemical contraceptives on sale now act primarily against implantation, i.e., as abortifacients, without women knowing it. Who will be able to calculate the number of victims from this massacre?

Surplus embryos, the inevitable product of *in vitro* fertilization, are frozen and eliminated unless they join their little aborted brothers and sisters who are to be turned into guinea pigs for experimentation or into raw materials for curing illnesses such as Parkinson's disease and diabetes. *In vitro* fertilization itself frequently becomes the occasion of "selective" abortion (e.g., choice of sex), when there are undesired multiple pregnancies.

Prenatal diagnosis is almost routinely used on so-called women "at risk" to eliminate systematically all fetuses which could be more or less malformed or diseased. All of those who have the good fortune of being carried to term by their mother, but have the misfortune of being born disabled, run the serious risk of being eliminated immediately after birth or of being deprived of nourishment or the most elementary care.

Later, those whom illness or accident cause to fall into an "irreversible" coma will frequently be put to death to answer the demand for organ transplants, or they will even be used for medical experiments ("warm cadavers").

Finally, when the prognosis is terminal, many will be tempted to hasten its arrival by euthanasia.

IV. Reasons for the opposition to life

But why is there this victory of legislation and anti-human practice precisely at the time when the idea of human rights seemed to have reached the point of universal and uncondi-

tional recognition? Why do even Christians, even persons of great moral formation, think that the norms regarding human life could and should be part of the compromises necessary to political life? Why do they fail to see the insuperable limits of any legislation worthy of the name—the point at which “right” becomes injustice and crime?

1. At the first stage of our reflection I think I can point to two reasons, behind which others are probably hiding. One reason is reflected in the opinion of those who hold that there must be a separation between personal ethical convictions and the political sphere in which laws are formulated. Here, the only value to be respected would be the complete freedom of choice of each individual, depending on his own private opinions.

In a world in which every moral conviction lacks a common reference to the truth, such a conviction has the value of a mere opinion. It would be an expression of intolerance to seek to impose that conviction on others through legislation, thus limiting their freedom. Social life, which cannot be established on any common, objective referent, should be thought of as the result of a compromise of interests, with a view to guaranteeing the maximum freedom possible for each one. In reality, however, wherever the decisive criterion for recognizing rights becomes that of the majority, wherever the right to express one’s own freedom can prevail over the right of a voiceless minority, there is the might that has become the criterion of right.

This result is even more obvious and is extremely serious when in the name of freedom for those who have power and voice, the fundamental right to life is denied to those who do not have the possibility of making themselves heard. In reality, in order to exist any political community must recognize at least a minimum of objectively established rights not granted by way of social conventions, but antecedent to any political system of law. The same “Universal Declaration of Human Rights” signed by almost all the countries of the world in 1948 after the terrible experience of the Second World War, expresses fully, even in its title, the awareness that human rights (the most basic of which is the right to life) belong to man by nature, that the state recognizes them but does not confer them, that they belong to all human beings inasmuch as they are human beings, and not because of secondary characteristics which others would have the right to determine arbitrarily.

One understands, then, how a state which arrogates to itself the prerogative of defining which human beings are or are not the subject of rights and which consequently grants to some the power to violate others’ fundamental right to life, contradicts the democratic ideal to which it continues to appeal and undermines the very foundations on which it is built. By allowing the rights of the weakest to be violated, the state also allows the law of force to prevail over the force of law. One sees, then, that the idea of an absolute tolerance of freedom of choice for some destroys the very foundation

of a just life for men together. The separation of politics from any natural content of right, which is the inalienable patrimony of everyone’s moral conscience, deprives social life of its ethical substance and leaves it defenseless before the will of the strongest.

Someone may ask us, however, when does the person, the subject of basic rights which must be absolutely respected, begin to exist. If we are not dealing with a social concession, but rather a recognition, the criteria for this determination must be objective as well. Now as *Donum Vitae* (1,1)

Such a dualism between technology and the body viewed as an object permits man to flee from the mystery of being. In reality birth and death, the appearance and passing of another, the arrival and the dissolution of the ego all direct the subject immediately to the question of his own meaning and his own existence.

has confirmed, modern genetics shows that “from the time that the ovum is fertilized a new life is begun which is neither that of the father nor of the mother; it is rather the life of a new human being with his own growth.” Science has shown “that from the first instant, the program is fixed as to what this living being will be; a man, this individual man with his characteristic aspects already well determined. Right from fertilization is begun the adventure of a human life and each of its great capacities require time to develop and to be in a position to act.” The recent discoveries of human biology recognize that “in the zygote resulting from fertilization the biological identity of a new human individual is already constituted.” Certainly no experimental datum can be in itself sufficient to bring us to the recognition of a spiritual soul; nevertheless, the conclusions of science regarding the human embryo provide a valuable indication for discerning by the use of reason a personal presence at the moment of the first appearance of a human life: How could a human individual not be a human person? Regarding this question, if the magisterium has not expressed itself in a binding way by philosophical affirmation, it has still taught constantly that from the first moment of its existence, as the product of human generation, the embryo must be guaranteed the unconditional respect which is morally due to a human being in his spiritual and bodily totality. “The human being is to be respected and treated as a person from the moment of conception; and

therefore, from that same moment his rights as a person must be recognized, among which in the first place is the inviolable right of every innocent human being to life.”

2. A second reason which explains the extent of a mentality opposed to life, I think, is the very concept of morality that today is widespread. Often a merely formal idea of conscience is joined to an individualistic view of freedom, understood as the absolute right to self-determination on the basis of one's own convictions. This view is no longer rooted in the classical conception of the moral conscience, in which (as Vatican II said) a law resounds which man does not give himself, but which he must obey (cf. *Gaudium et Spes*, 16). In this conception, which belongs to the entire Christian tradition, conscience is the capacity to be open to the call of truth that is objective, universal, and the same for all who can and must seek it. It is not isolation but communion: *cum scire* in the truth concerning the good, which accompanies human beings in the intimacy of their spiritual nature. It is in this relationship with common and objective truth that conscience finds its justification and its dignity, a dignity which must always be accurately guaranteed by a continuing formation. For the Christian this naturally entails a *sentire cum ecclesia*, and so, an intrinsic reference to the authentic magisterium of the church.

On the other hand, in the new conception, clearly Kantian in origin, conscience is detached from its constitutive relationship with a content of moral truth and is reduced to a mere formal condition of morality. Its suggestion “do good and avoid evil,” would have no necessary and universal reference to the truth concerning the good, but would be linked only with the goodness of the subjective intention. Concrete actions, instead, would depend for their moral qualification on the self-understanding of the individual, which is always culturally and circumstantially determined. In this way, conscience becomes nothing but subjectivity elevated to being the ultimate criterion of action. The fundamental Christian idea that nothing can be opposed to conscience no longer has the original and inalienable meaning that truth can only be imposed in virtue of itself, i.e., in personal interiority. Instead, we have the divinization of subjectivity, the infallible oracle of which is conscience, never to be doubted by anyone or anything.

V. Anthropological dimensions of the challenge

1. However, it is necessary to investigate the roots of this opposition to life more deeply. And so on a second level, reflecting a more personalist approach, we find an anthropological dimension where we should pause, however briefly.

It should be noted here that Western culture increasingly affirms a new dualism, where some of its characteristic traits converge: individualism, materialism, utilitarianism, and the hedonist ideology of self-fulfillment for oneself. In fact, the body is no longer perceived naturally by the subject as the

concrete form of all of his relations with God, other persons, and the world, i.e., as that datum which in the midst of a universe being built, a conversation in course, a history rich in meaning, one can participate in positively only by accepting its rules and its language. Rather, the body appears to be a tool to be utilized for one's well-being, worked out and implemented by technical reason which figures out how to draw the greatest profit from it.

In this way even sexuality becomes depersonalized and exploited. Sexuality appears merely as an occasion for pleasure and no longer as an act of self-giving or as the expression of a love in which another is accepted completely as he or she is, and which opens itself to the richness of life it bears, i.e., a baby who will be the fruit of that love. The two meanings of the sexual act, unitive and procreative, become separated. Union is impoverished while fruitfulness is reduced to the sphere of a rational calculation: “A child? Certainly. But when and how I want one.”

It becomes clear that such a dualism between technology and the body viewed as an object permits man to flee from the mystery of being. In reality birth and death, the appearance and passing of another, the arrival and the dissolution of the ego all direct the subject immediately to the question of his own meaning and his own existence. And perhaps to escape this anguishing question he seeks to guarantee for himself the most complete dominion possible over these two key moments in life; he seeks to put them under his own control. It is an illusion to think that man is in complete possession of himself, that he enjoys absolute freedom, that he can be manufactured according to a plan which leaves nothing uncertain, nothing to chance, nothing to mystery.

2. A world which makes such an absolute option for efficiency, a world which so approves of a utilitarian logic, a world which for the most part thinks of freedom as an absolute right of the individual and conscience as a totally solitary, subjectivist court of appeal, necessarily tends to impoverish all human relations to the point of considering them finally as relations of power and of not allowing the weakest human beings to have the place which is their due. From this point of view, utilitarian ideology heads in the direction of machismo, and feminism becomes the legitimate reaction against the exploitation of the woman.

However, so-called feminism is frequently based on the same utilitarian presuppositions as machismo and, far from liberating woman, contributes rather to her enslavement.

When in line with the dualism just described woman denies her own body, considering it simply as an object to be used for acquiring happiness through self-achievement, she also denies her own femininity, a properly feminine gift of self and her acceptance of another person, of which motherhood is the most typical sign and the most concrete realization.

When woman opts for free love and reaches the point of claiming the right to abortion, she helps to reinforce the notion of human relations according to which the dignity of

each one depends, in the eyes of another, on how much he is able to give. In all of this, woman takes a position against her own femininity and against the values of which she is the bearer: acceptance of life, availability to the weakest, unconditional devotion to the needy. An authentic feminism, working for the advancement of the woman in her integral truth and for the liberation of all women, would also work for the advancement of the whole human person and for the liberation of all human beings. This feminism would, in fact, struggle for the recognition of the human person in the dignity which is due to him or her from the sole fact of existence, of being willed and created by God, and not for his or her usefulness, power, beauty, intelligence, wealth or health. It would strive to advance an anthropology which values the essence of the person as made for the gift of self and the acceptance of the other, of which the body, male or female, is the sign and instrument.

It is precisely by developing an anthropology which presents man in his personal and relational wholeness that we can respond to the widespread argument that the best way to fight against abortion would be to promote contraception. Each of us has already heard this rebuke leveled against the church: "It is absurd that you want to prevent both contraception and abortion. Blocking access to the former means making the latter inevitable." A similar claim, which at first sign seems totally plausible, is, however, contradicted by experience: The fact is that generally an increase in the rate of contraception is paralleled by an increase in the rate of abortion. It must be noted, in fact, that contraception and abortion both have their roots in that depersonalized the utilitarian view of sexuality and procreation which we have just described and which in turn is based on a truncated notion of man and his freedom.

It is not a matter of assuming a stewardship that is responsible and worthy of one's own fertility as the result of a generous plan that is always open to the possible acceptance of new, unforeseen life.

It is rather a matter of ensuring complete control over procreation, which rejects even the idea of an unplanned child. Understood in these terms, contraception necessarily leads to abortion as a "backup solution." One cannot strengthen the contraception mentality without strengthening at the same time the ideology which supports it, and therefore without implicitly encouraging abortion. On the contrary, if one develops the idea that man only discovers himself fully in the generous gift of himself and in the unconditional acceptance of the other, simply because the latter exists, then abortion will increasingly appear as an absurd crime.

An individualistic type of anthropology, as we have seen, leads one to consider objective truth as inaccessible, freedom as arbitrary, conscience as a tribunal closed in on itself. Such an anthropology leads woman not only to hatred toward men, but also to hatred toward herself and toward her own femininity, and above all toward her own motherhood.

More generally, a similar anthropology leads human be-

ings to hatred toward themselves. Man despises himself; he is no longer in accord with God who found his human creation to be "something very good" (Gen. 1:31). On the contrary, man today sees himself as the destroyer of the world, an unhappy product of evolution. In reality, man who no longer has access to the infinite, to God, is a contradictory being, a failed product. Thus, we see the logic of sin: By wanting to be like God, man seeks absolute independence. To be self-sufficient he must become independent, he must be emancipated even from love, which is always a free grace, not something that

The political point of view could [show] how . . . the implicit intention in anti-life laws is basically totalitarian within society and imperialistic on the part of the developed countries of the West in regard to the Third World countries . . . seeking to contain the latter on the pretext of demographic politics and . . . not shunning any means.

can be produced or made. However, by making himself independent of love, man is separated from the true richness of his being and becomes empty. Opposition to his own being is inevitable. "It is not good to be a human being"—the logic of death belongs to the logic of sin. The road to abortion, to euthanasia, and to exploitation of the weakest lies open.

To sum up everything, then, we can say: The ultimate root of hatred for human life, of all attacks on human life, is the loss of God. Where God disappears, the absolute dignity of human life disappears as well. In light of the revelation concerning the creation of man in the image and likeness of God, the inestimable sacredness of the human person has appeared. Only this divine dimension guarantees the full dignity of the human person. Therefore, a purely vitalist argument, as we often see used (e.g., in the sense intended by A. Schweitzer), can be a first step, but remains insufficient and never reaches the intended goal. In the struggle for life talking about God is indispensable. Only in this way does the metaphysical foundation of human dignity become apparent; only in this way does the value of the weak, of the disabled, of the non-productive, of the incurably ill become apparent; only in this way can we relearn and rediscover, too, the value of suffering: The greatest lesson on human dignity always remains the cross of Christ; our salvation has its origin not in what the Son of God did, but in his suffering, and whoever does not know how to suffer does not know how to live.

Possible responses to the challenge of our time

What should be done in this situation to respond to the challenge just described?

For my part, I would like to confine myself to the possibilities associated with the function of the magisterium. Magisterial statements on this problem have not been wanting in recent years. The Holy Father tirelessly insists on the defense of life as a fundamental duty of every Christian; many bishops speak of it with great competence and force. In the past few years the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has published several important documents on the moral themes regarding respect for human life. In 1974 the congregation issued a "Declaration on Procured Abortion"; in 1980, with the instruction *Jura et Bona*, it published a statement on the problems of euthanasia and care for the terminally ill; in 1987 the instruction *Donum Vitae* confronted, in the context of dealing with medically assisted procreation, the problem of respect for human embryos, of the so-called "surplus" products of *in vitro* fertilization, of their freezing and destruction as well as that of selective abortion following multiple implantations.

In spite of these position statements, in spite of very numerous pontifical addresses on some of these problems or on their particular aspects, the field remains wide open for a global restatement on the doctrinal level which would go to the deepest roots of the problem and denounce the most aberrant consequences of the "death mentality."

One could think, then, of a possible document on the defense of human life which in my opinion should have two original characteristics in respect to the preceding documents. First of all, it should not only develop its treatment of individual morality, but should also give consideration to social and political morality. More in detail, the threats against human life could be confronted from five points of view: the doctrinal, the cultural, the legislative, the political, and finally, the practical.

From the specifically doctrinal point of view the magisterium today could propose a strong reaffirmation of the principle that "the direct killing of an innocent human being is always a matter of grave sin." Without being a formal dogmatic pronouncement, this affirmation would nevertheless have the weight of a dogmatic pronouncement. Its key elements: "direct killing," "innocent human being," "a matter of grave sin," can effectively be defined with precision. Neither biblical foundations nor those of tradition are lacking.

Such a strictly doctrinal position taken with a high degree of authority could have the greatest importance at a time of widespread doctrinal confusion. However, that is not enough. The reasons for our faith, its human evidence, must be apparent in the context of our time. Hence, there is the necessity of developing the church's teaching by following other points of view.

The cultural point of view would allow for a denunciation of the anti-life ideology, which is based on materialism and

justified by utilitarianism.

The legislative point of view could present an outline of the different types of legislation which are being planned in regard to abortion, the embryo trade, euthanasia, etc. This would make it possible to highlight the implicit presuppositions of these laws, to show that they are intrinsically immoral, and to clarify the proper function of civil law in relation to the moral law.

The political point of view could be one of the most important elements. It would be a matter of showing how laws are always the implementation of a social plan and how the implicit intention in anti-life laws is basically totalitarian within society and imperialistic on the part of the developed countries of the West in regard to the Third World countries. The former are seeking to contain the latter on the pretext of demographic politics and are not shunning any means.

From the practical point of view, finally, we could commit ourselves to making people aware of the wickedness involved in using certain abortifacient or contraceptive-abortifacient means, of the evil implicit in belonging to or promoting so-called "right to death with dignity" associations or in distributing pamphlets which teach how to commit suicide.

In this context, one could also speak of the role of the mass media, of parties and parliaments, of doctors and health-care personnel, always mentioning the positive and negative aspects: on the one hand denouncing any complicity, on the other encouraging, praising, and motivating those activities which favor life.

And so we arrive at the second original feature of a possible new document: Although there should be room for a denunciation, this would not be the main feature. Above all, it would be a matter of giving a joyous restatement of the message about the immense value of each and every human being, however poor, weak or suffering he or she may be. The statement would show how this value is seen in the eyes of philosophers, but above all in the eyes of God as revelation teaches us.

It would be a matter of recalling with wonder the marvels of the Creator toward his creation, the marvels of the Redeemer toward those he came to meet and save. It would be a matter of showing how receptivity to the Spirit entails in itself a generous availability to other people, and thus a receptivity toward every human life from the first moment of its existence until the time of its death.

In short, against all ideologies and politics of death, it is a matter of recalling all that is essential in the Christian good news: Beyond all suffering, Christ has cleared the way to thanksgiving for life in both its human and divine aspects.

More important than any document will be a coherent and committed proclamation of the Gospel of life by all preachers of the world, to rebuild the clarity and joy of the faith and to offer believers the reason for our hope (1 Pt. 3:15), which can also convince non-believers.

The Church speaks out

The following excerpts are from the statement issued by the Brazilian National Bishops Conference, following their 29th Annual General Assembly, held April 10-19 in Itaiaci, São Paulo.

As a show of faith, and an expression of our pastoral mission in the face of the resurgence of violence, and in communion with Pope John Paul II, promoter and defender of life in the midst of a culture of death, we denounce and condemn all of the personal and collective crimes committed against life. We also repudiate all proposals and practices which undermine or deny the basic values of human dignity. . . .

Just as in the recent past we opposed repression and torture, today we oppose those bills being discussed in the National Congress proposing the death penalty.

We denounce the extermination of infants, youth, and adults, on the streets . . . in the slums and suburbs of the large urban centers. The real death penalty . . . above all affects the poor and outcast. All those who make up, support or finance extermination groups, grievously violate God's Plan. . . .

In the name of the God of life, we radically oppose the bill for liberalization of abortion. The alarming incidence of the criminal practice of abortion leads us to cry out, ever more loudly, on behalf of life. To embrace the path of death and to deny our very God, places the future of humanity at great risk. . . .

Even more serious and criminal is the action which mutilates the source of life in men and women. Sterilization, particularly on a mass scale, is to be condemned, and worse, when it is done without the individual's consent. We likewise denounce the anti-natalist mentality which leads to the indiscriminate use of contraceptives. . . .

The disregard for life and for the human being is seen, moreover, by the scandal of children abandoned on the streets, and by the humiliation to which the elderly and retired are subjected. . . .

Lastly, we cannot remain silent in the face of the indebtedness and economic slavery to which the country has been subjected over recent decades, with grave consequences for the population's existence. We will inform our brother bishops in the nations of the First World of the degrading conditions to which the Brazilian people have been subjected by

the multinationals' economic order. Moreover, the current economic-financial policies leading to recession, unemployment, low wages, and impoverishment of the middle class, dangerously jeopardize social conditions.

The following are excerpts from an article by Brazilian Cardinal Eugenio Sales, published in the June 1 O Globo. Cardinal Sales refers to discussion at the Extraordinary Consistory held in Rome on April 4-7.

. . . At a time when there is no respect for the sacred and intangible value of existence, the Church feels compelled to, above all, defend the right to life from conception until its natural end. It raises its voice on behalf of the most defenseless, the unborn. We are witnesses to an infamous war of the powerful against helpless human beings; the elimination of the poorest among the poor, the suppression of what is judged by egoism to be useless or which causes complications for the materialist conception prevalent in modern society. . . .

Since opposition to human life takes on catastrophic dimensions, today it is incumbent on the Church to take a firmer stand.

The sentiments of the Consistory members were unanimous. In the final declaration, the world's cardinals "affirm the sacred inviolability of human life, a gift from God, today threatened ever more directly, from inception, with the impressive spread of often legalized abortion, and now frequently linked to unacceptable genetic manipulations. . . .

In the legislative area, [we must] present laws or bills on abortion, trafficking in embryos, and euthanasia as intrinsically immoral activity.

From a political standpoint, the manipulations of a Western, imperialist society vis-à-vis the Third World, must be exposed. . . .

The Mexican Bishops Conference warns of invasion of foreign pharmaceutical companies, to impose birth control.

The May 22, 1991 issue of *El Heraldo* reported on the warning issued by the Mexican Bishops Conference to the effect that, by the fall of this year, several international pharmaceutical consortia were planning to flood the Latin American market with a large number of contraceptive and abortion mechanisms which are still in the experimentation phase in other countries. Bishop Norberto Rivera Carrera, president of the Commission on the Family, and Bishop Francisco López Félix, Curia secretary, said that among substances being contemplated was the abortion pill, RU-486, whose use in France has caused over 60,000 abortions. Bishop Genaro Alamilla, spokesman for the Bishops Conference, denounced the role of the United Nations not only for sponsoring genocide in the Persian Gulf, but for allocating \$9 billion to finance studies on the need for population reduction. This will be an "escalation of death, whose victims will be women and innocent children," Alamilla warned. "This is an outrage."

Baltic showdown a test for East-West relations

by Hartmut Cramer

Once again the Baltic region has become a test case for East-West relations as a whole. In view of the provocations in recent weeks on the one hand, and the extraordinary silence in Western capitals on the other, it was to be expected that the Soviet rulers would make a new coup try in Lithuania. Although the immediate events and the short duration of the nighttime military action on June 3-4 in Vilnius, which fell on exactly the second anniversary of the bloody massacre on Tiananmen Square in Beijing, lead one to assume that it was a "trial balloon," in view of the overall international situation this escalation must be taken very, very seriously.

After units of the notorious Black Berets, directly run by the Soviet Internal Affairs Ministry, had for several weeks been assaulting Baltic border posts and burning them down, regular units of the Red Army on June 3 sealed the Lithuanian-Belorusian border; in late evening Soviet soldiers suddenly erupted into the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius, seizing strategically important bridges, ringing the Parliament and the Interior Ministry, and stopping passersby at machine-gunpoint and searching them at the airport, train station, and on major streets. When asked, the Soviet officers either gave the pretext that they were looking for "deserters," or that they had come to protect Lithuanian citizens from the excesses of the Black Berets.

Among the Soviet soldiers were specialists whose job was to get an exact profile of the Lithuanian people's response. They filmed the whole proceeding, especially noting the time it took to organize the defense around the Parliament. The result must have given the Soviet regime quite a headache, since only 15 minutes after the call for help by President Landsbergis, beamed over Lithuanian television, the square before Parliament was filled. Significantly, the Soviet soldiers, who up until that point had been very rude to the Parliament guards and arrested some of them without stating

any reason, changed their attitude as the throng grew; they became quite defensive, and a few hours later, the military action broke off as fast as it had begun.

Beyond the "profiling" of the Lithuanian reaction to the military encroachment, the reactions of the Soviet leaders make it clear that this nocturnal spree was a well-planned, top-down operation. As during the Jan. 13 massacre (which according to the official Soviet Attorney General Trubin's report, released precisely on June 3 in Vilnius, was entirely the fault of the Lithuanian government!) President Landsbergis could reach no one at the upper echelons during the critical hours. As he explained on June 4 to the Parliament, the Soviet military commander in Vilnius "could not be awakened," Defense Minister Dmitri Yazov "had no time," President Gorbachov "was not available," and the leader of Soviet troops in the Baltic, General Belousov, who finally said he would take a telephone inquiry, spoke merely of an "exercise" and a "regular patrol," which was being carried out in the republics in accordance with Gorbachov's decree.

The public statements of the Soviet government allow a deeper look. President Gorbachov himself denied, during a June 5 press conference in Oslo, that a military action had just occurred in Vilnius, and referred to "exaggerated press reports." His spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko on the same day claimed that the whole affair was once again nothing but a "provocation by Landsbergis," who was trying thereby to compromise Gorbachov in internationally critical situations. (How Landsbergis, President of the minuscule Lithuanian republic, could have the power, from Vilnius, to deploy units of the huge, rigidly centrally controlled Soviet Army, Ignatenko did not even try to explain.)

The political background is obvious. Time is running out on the Soviet central regime, which does not want the Baltic

republics it forcibly annexed in 1941 to gain independence, and is trying by all means to break the Balts' resistance. Since the London and Washington governments want to distract from enormous economic and social tensions at home with foreign adventures ("new world order") and therefore have an interest in a condominium with Moscow, Gorbachov has no scruples about using force. Hence the Baltic situation is the more dangerous, the "better" the superpowers get along. As soon as Bush and Gorbachov agreed on the terms of a new summit for the end of June, the show of force in Lithuanian was as good as foreordained. Lithuania's President, moreover, probably realized this when he last met with President Bush in early May in Washington.

Three reasons

There are three main reasons why the situation in the Baltics, and especially Lithuania, is coming to a head:

1) The Lithuanian government has had its first breakthrough in relations with Germany, whose economic and political aid is vital, if not decisive, for the independence fight to succeed. President Landsbergis just voiced to a group of parliamentary visitors from the German state of Rhineland Palatinate on June 5 in Vilnius his displeasure that Bonn was silent in view of Moscow's violent actions, and that Gorbachov was awarded billions of marks in credit with no conditions (such as renunciation of force and recognition of international law, i.e., Lithuania's independence). But his own visit to Bonn in mid-May has borne fruit. A Bonn Foreign Ministry spokesman said that while no official statement will be put out, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher had received his three Baltic colleagues already, relations will be continued, and that Bonn stands for dialogue and non-use of force in the solution of the "Baltic question."

Even if Bonn in this, as in other key political issues, is hedging—with one eye on Moscow and the other over the Channel and the Atlantic—behind the scenes *EIR* has learned that German-Lithuanian relations will intensify: Offices will be set up, and economic contacts, as well as parliamentary exchanges, will increase. Though limited, it is a first step. Another good sign is that Landsbergis had a chance, in an interview May 26 on German TV, to eloquently present his government's view ("If we insist that the past injustice done to us by the Soviets must be reversed, then we are doing our duty; and one must do one's duty.")

2) The second reason for a major panic by communist *nomenklatura* is the upcoming election in Russia. If the forces represented by Boris Yeltsin win the vote, as expected, there will be a shift in power in Moscow. For the Baltic states that means the near-term endorsement of important accords with the Russian republic, which are ripe for signing for some time, and mutual recognition of sovereignty, renunciation of force, as well as close economic cooperation. Once these accords take effect it will be much harder, if not impossible, for the *nomenklatura* to solve the "Baltic question" by force.

Hence the coming weeks (in Vilnius they say until the end of July) will be full of tension, since the "cement heads" in the Kremlin are not going to easily give up as long as there is no obstacle in their way from the West.

3) The third reason is probably the most important: the positive political explosion which the June 1-9 visit to Poland of Pope John Paul II is detonating in Central and Eastern Europe, especially in Lithuania. Not just because the Pope, in the border city of Lomza, spoke bluntly of the Hitler-Stalin Pact (and hence of the annexation of Lithuania to the Soviet Union as part of that pact) as a "historic injustice" and before tens of thousands Lithuanians warmly backed the independence struggle ("Lithuania has, like every other country, the right to freedom"), but above all because he has created with his latest social encyclical, *Centesimus Annus*, a basis for solving the enormous economic, political, and social problems of this region—including the Soviet Union.

In Lomza the Pope received a high-level Lithuanian government delegation (because of the dangerous situation in Vilnius, President Landsbergis could not come, as originally planned); he told them he would stand up for their independence in Moscow and promised to visit their land soon. No head of state has yet shown the same courage.

A just new world economic order

If we now look at the reports of the seminars held in Moscow at the end of May, in which Vatican and Soviet government representatives discussed a way out of the world economic catastrophe, and note with amazement that even some of the Soviet spokesmen found *Centesimus Annus* to be a sound basis for a new world economic policy, then we can clearly see what is at stake internationally.

Were, for example, the West, Central, and Eastern European governments (note that Vilnius is the geographic midpoint of Europe) to accept *Centesimus Annus* as their general economic-philosophical foundation and Lyndon LaRouche's "Productive Triangle" as their concrete economic program, then the seemingly unsolvable conflict between the freedom struggles of the Baltic countries, the interests of Moscow, and those of the Western states, could be easily solved.

This means defending the unity of politics, economics, and morality, and those who stand up for it, like Lithuania's President Landsbergis. Not surprisingly, an international media campaign, especially in the British press, blames Landsbergis for Moscow's actions against his country. The left-liberal London *Guardian* on June 6, calling him the "inexperienced music professor," said he had provoked the Soviet troop reaction because of his open letter to Gorbachov. The *Berliner Zeitung*, a paper which belonged to the East German communist state before the revolution, and which was bought up early this year by British media czar and ardent Gorbachov fan Robert Maxwell, sneered that the armed incursion into Vilnius only benefited "the nationalist faction in Parliament, led by Landsbergis."

Soviets on KAL 007: LaRouche was right

by Jeffrey Steinberg

On Sept. 6, 1983, *EIR* Founding Editor Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. issued a news release on the Sept. 1 Soviet downing of the Korean Airlines Flight 007, in which 269 people were killed. Referring to a television address by President Ronald Reagan, LaRouche commented: "President Reagan's nationwide U.S. broadcast of Labor Day evening . . . replaying a tape-recording of the Soviet pilot describing the action of destroying the KAL 007 airliner, left no doubt that the Soviets knew that this was KAL 007, that its lights were showing in normal fashion, and that the Soviet command ordered the airliner and its passengers massacred."

Within days of the Reagan address and the LaRouche news release, Soviet Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, then the chief of staff of the Soviet Armed Forces, delivered the Andropov regime's official account of the downing of the plane. The Soviet version was a tissue of lies, aimed at portraying the civilian airliner as a spy plane that had intentionally penetrated Soviet air space near top secret military facilities on the Sakhalin Islands in the North Pacific. Photographs of the Soviet marshal standing in front of a map of the region adorned the covers of every news magazine in the West.

An 'evil empire'

Reagan and LaRouche both promptly denounced the Ogarkov version of the KAL shootdown as a pack of lies, masking a level of Soviet brutality that many in the West wished hysterically to deny.

Reagan labeled the Soviet Union an "empire of evil."

LaRouche, for his part, had been warning since the early summer that Moscow would take some kind of dramatic action to demonstrate its violent rejection of President Reagan's March 23, 1983 offer of joint Soviet-American development of a strategic defense against ballistic missiles—the Strategic Defense Initiative.

As one of the leading authors of the SDI, LaRouche had gone from being one of the quiet back-channels between the Soviet and American governments on a wide range of defense and economic matters, to becoming a target of public venom from Moscow's leading international press organs. The shift

occurred right after President Reagan's March 23 address unveiled the administration's adoption of the LaRouche SDI plan.

For LaRouche, the violence of the Soviet media attacks against him indicated that the Russian *nomenklatura* was locked into a confrontation course with the West that corresponded culturally to the centuries-old Third Rome doctrine. The Soviet rejection of President Reagan's generous offer of technological collaboration on the SDI was the "unique experiment" proof that Moscow had come under the sway of the Third Rome ideologues inside the Russian Orthodox Church, the Red Army, and the state apparatus.

Now, nearly eight years after the tragic downing of KAL 007, a series of 11-plus articles has been recently published in the Soviet government daily *Izvestia*, providing documentary proof that LaRouche was right about the events of Sept. 1, 1983, and that Marshal Ogarkov was telling a pack of lies.

No warning given

The *Izvestia* series, by Aleksandr Shalnev, Andrey Illesh, and Sergey Agafonov, provided eyewitness accounts, interviews, and maps proving that:

- The KAL 007 Boeing 747 was flying with all of its lights functioning in the normal configuration of a commercial airliner. The serial number of the commercial plane was visible to planes flying nearby. There was, therefore, never any doubt about the nature of the aircraft, never any real suspicion that it was on a spy mission. This version of the events of the early morning hours of Sept. 1 was provided to *Izvestia* by none other than Lt. Col. Gennady Nikolayevich Osipovich, the pilot of the Soviet Air Force Su-15 plane that shot down KAL 007. According to the Ogarkov press conference version, the KAL plane was mistaken for a military spy plane because it was flying without its lights on.

- The Su-15 never fired tracer bullets to confirm the precise nature of the plane that was violating Soviet air space for over one hour. Such tracer bullets illuminate the sky and would have further settled any doubts that the KAL was a commercial flight strayed innocently off course. Again from Colonel Osipovich: "If I had had tracers, everything would have been visible. They're bright as a cigarette at night. But I didn't have any of those, only armor-piercing bullets." Those comments were made during an interview with ABC-News "Nightline" correspondent in Moscow, Rick Inderfurth, which was aired on May 22. In contrast with the Osipovich statements, Marshal Ogarkov said that the Soviet pilot had fired "warning shots with tracer shells" along the path of the airliner.

- Nor did the Soviet jet fighter attempt to make radio contact with the KAL 007 pilot to order him to land or determine his status. According to Osipovich, he could not even attempt to make radio contact without losing the communications link to the ground control. That would have been a

violation of procedures, since by that point, the Su-15 was waiting for instructions from the military command whether to fire on the plane.

- The KAL flight had earlier strayed into Soviet air space and this had triggered an alert status, in which the Soviet Far East military command at minimum had been brought into the decision-making process. By Osipovich's account, he received two prior orders to shoot at the KAL airliner, which were quickly canceled, before finally getting the kill order. This chronology demonstrates beyond a doubt that there was a command decision process leading to the shootdown of 007, and that the decision-making structure could have certainly been activated at the level of Moscow Red Army headquarters and the Kremlin.

As Illesh put it in the May 24 *Izvestia* installment: "A military-political decision was made. Why? All this took too much time. Osipovich's attack in the air was called off twice. This means that somebody first decided: Shoot down! Then consulted someone, and canceled the order. Then made another decision, and again canceled."

- The two Soviet missiles that hit the KAL 007 caused the plane to immediately crash into the sea near Moneron Island. While Soviet reports on the shootdown at the time claimed that the Korean airliner took over 10 minutes from the point of attack to crash into the sea, the *Izvestia* reporters, interviewing members of the search team that combed the waters for months for details of the incident, received contradictory evidence. The plane fell from the sky at a 70-80° angle and crashed into the water less than two minutes after the rockets hit the airliner's tail and engine. The difference between the original "10-minute" account and the actual event, as told by witnesses like Soviet naval officer B. Kurkov to *Izvestia*, are critical. The impact of the initial rocket hit and the violence of the crash explain why none of the 269 bodies were found—with the exception of a scant few body parts. The bodies literally disintegrated due to the impact of the explosion and the 32,000-foot crash.

In contrast, Marshal Ogarkov and others had argued—based on the false account that the plane had gone into a slow descent into the sea—that there never were any passengers aboard the plane, that it was a spy mission and a provocation orchestrated by the Reagan administration against Andropov.

The missing black box

- Sometime between Sept. 15 and Nov. 7, 1983, Soviet naval diving teams searching the waters near Moneron Island managed to recover KAL's two black boxes—the flight data recorders. To this day, Soviet officials continue to deny that they ever found the crucial recorders. *Izvestia* interviewed several members of the Soviet Navy search teams, who provided detailed accounts of how the black boxes were transported in rubber containers filled with sea water to a top secret

military intelligence compound, the Central Science and Research Base of the Air Force, near Moscow, where the flight data was decoded and stashed away in files at the Soviet military intelligence (GRU) headquarters.

Commenting on the black box data, *Izvestia's* Illesh wrote on May 25: "There was, probably, quite a lot that went against our official version. If you recall, the Boeing crew, for all practical purposes, had not been warned of the impending attack, as is customary in international practice. They had no idea that they would be shot at shortly, and therefore remarks such as 'He is warning us . . . I see tracers. . . . He wants us to land at his airfield,' and so on were not in the conversations of the Boeing crew. The missile hit was a complete surprise altogether. If the recording of the crew's conversations among themselves had been published at that time, it would have become clear to the whole world that the U.S.S.R. PVO [Air Defense] had shot down a passenger aircraft without warning."

LaRouche's warning

In his Sept. 6, 1983 press release, LaRouche not only characterized the KAL 007 affair as a case of premeditated murder, sanctioned at the highest levels of the Soviet command. He urged the Reagan administration to take the incident as a clear indication that the SDI had to proceed on a crash program basis, both to offset continuing threats from Moscow and to reverse the economic collapse of the United States, which fueled Soviet ambitions. "The principal long-term reason for Soviet rejection of the offer of durable peace given to them publicly by the President is the Soviet estimation that the development of strategic ABM systems based on 'new physical principles' would cause a general economic recovery in the U.S.A. and Western Europe which the Soviet government presently refuses to tolerate," LaRouche wrote.

The LaRouche prescription for dealing with Moscow in the wake of KAL 007—the crash development and deployment of SDI in such a fashion that would fuel a general economic recovery—was, unfortunately, largely rejected by a Reagan administration under attack from both Moscow and from Western opponents of the SDI recovery plan. As the consequence of that and other missed opportunities, the U.S. economy now stands on the edge of total ruin—precisely as LaRouche warned. Only the Soviet economy, within the entire industrialized world, is worse off than America.

It is too late to go back and reverse those grave errors of 1983, just as it is impossible to go back and cancel the shootdown orders that sent KAL 007 into the sea. The recent glimmer of truth about the KAL affair emerging from the official Soviet press does, however, offer a useful opportunity for policymakers East and West to consider the broader consequences of those events and take remedial action, including in respect to the unjust imprisonment of LaRouche, the man who called the shots.

NATO to be extended into the Mideast

by Joseph Brewda

Developments over the last week of May show that Operation Desert Storm, and the continuing destruction of Iraq through sanctions, are intended by the Anglo-American policymakers to extend NATO into the Middle East, with Israel as its main base of operations.

On May 29, President George Bush proclaimed another postwar Mideast initiative in an address before the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. His plan would impose a ban on the sale of weapons of mass destruction to the region—a policy designed to leave Israel as the unchallengeable regional power. The day prior to the address, a NATO meeting in Brussels adopted a U.S. proposal to form a British-run Rapid Reaction Corps, for use in the NATO area “from Norway to Turkey,” but also undoubtedly for “out-of-area” deployments in the Middle East and Africa. On May 31, U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney announced in Israel that the United States would be “pre-positioning” undisclosed U.S. war matériel in Israel for “regional use.”

The idea of using the Anglo-American puppet state of Israel as the basis for NATO domination of the Middle East is an old one. In 1986, the Reagan-Bush administration commissioned a strategic study entitled “Discriminate Deterrence,” which advocated extending NATO into the Mideast with Israel as its anchor. The proposal to upgrade the U.S. strategic relationship with Israel, and the related idea of using it as a depot for NATO war matériel, was a central plank in Bush’s 1988 presidential campaign platform.

Gutting Arab defenses

In his Air Force Academy address, Bush warned that “weapons proliferation” in the Mideast has become “dangerous,” and proposed that the world’s five largest weapons suppliers—the United States, Britain, France, Soviet Union, and China—curb their sales of conventional arms to the region. These five states, which are also the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, coordinated the recent obliteration of Iraq. Bush also called for a freeze on the sale of short-term missiles to countries in the region, and the imposition of a ban on the regional production of weapons-

grade uranium and poison gas.

The reality behind such professed concerns for peace is the following. Israel already has some 50-100 nuclear bombs; the technology to produce them was supplied by the United States, France, and Britain. Israel also has massive regional superiority in chemical and biological weapons, and the ability to deliver them, for the same reasons. Last fall, the United States sold Israel a Cray supercomputer, to allow it to design a nuclear bomb in the 50-megaton range.

No Arab state has a nuclear bomb, and, in fact, every major Arab state has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty—unlike Israel. A freeze on conventional arms development, in this context, would leave Israel unchallengeable.

Simultaneous with the Bush proposal, Defense Secretary Cheney traveled to Israel to announce a new arms package. The United States will fund almost all of Israel’s \$300 million Arrow missile development program, to give Israel the capability to shoot down whatever missile the Arabs might possess. As the recent war with Iraq showed, the Scuds are hardly top-of-the-line. Moreover, some \$700 million of extra weapons authorized by Congress after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait will soon be delivered.

More importantly, Cheney’s also announced that the U.S. has already begun to pre-position undisclosed arms in hardened bunkers in Israel, supposedly exclusively under U.S. control.

Claiming that the arrangement did not contradict Bush’s disarmament plan, Cheney told the Israeli press, “There is nothing inconsistent with, on the one hand, saying that we are interested in pursuing arms control, and on the other hand providing for legitimate security requirements.” Although the U.S. has refused to disclose what matériel is being pre-positioned, various regional sources project that it includes nuclear weapons and related capabilities.

A new war?

Meanwhile, the much-discussed postwar regional security arrangement, which involves Egypt, Syria, the Gulf states, and the United States—but not Israel—is falling apart. In May, Washington quietly ordered Egypt and Syria to pull their troops out of Saudi Arabia. This withdrawal was depicted in the press as a sovereign Egyptian decision—to preserve the illusion that the U.S. still needs or wants “brown” troops.

Instead of relying on these troops, the U.S. will be setting up a naval base in tiny Bahrain in the Persian Gulf, linked up with its Diego Garcia naval base in the Indian Ocean. These U.S. bases, together with Israel—and no Arab army—will be the centers of U.S. power in the region.

If Israel goes to war with the inferior forces of Syria, as the U.S. seems to be planning, or if Egypt is destabilized by an assassination of President Hosni Mubarak (which some say the U.S. is also planning), there will be nothing left in the region which could constrain the Anglo-Americans’ Israeli puppet state.

Future role for NATO under debate

by Dean Andromidas

NATO defense ministers meeting in Brussels at the end of May backed the creation of a Rapid Reaction Force, as part of a revamped NATO military structure. According to press reports, the creation of the corps would be part of a plan that would reduce NATO troop levels by half and American troop levels by over two-thirds, from 300,000 to as low as 70,000. The Rapid Reaction Force can be seen as a concession to U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney's pressure for deployment outside NATO's treaty-defined area, although it is not yet clear whether the RRF will have the authority to deploy out of area under NATO auspices at this time.

The defense ministers' decision was part of a reorganization of NATO's military structure, in light of the collapse of the Warsaw Pact and the unification of Germany. The NATO meeting and other recent security conferences held under the auspices of the North Atlantic Assembly and North Atlantic Commission served to point up underlying and fundamental conflict between the Anglo-Americans and the continent. The former are demanding that NATO prepare for North-South conflicts, modeled on the war against Iraq. This view was expressed by NATO Commander Gen. John Galvin, who told the *Wall Street Journal* May 13 that he could envision NATO and Soviet cooperation in wars against the developing sector, "where we all are faced with the same threat from the South." In contrast, the countries of Central Europe, including Germany and particularly the former Warsaw Pact nations of Eastern and Central Europe, see the real source of threats to world security as the economic crisis engulfing their own nations, the Soviet Union, and the developing sector.

The British run the show

The Brussels meeting decided on a new NATO structure with three levels: Reaction Forces, Main Defense Forces, and Augmentation Forces (reserves). The Main Defense Forces will include seven corps, totaling 16 divisions. The Rapid Reaction Force, which will be under the command of a British general, will comprise 50-70,000 men and include one British armored division and one British air mobile infantry division, plus a third division comprising British, German, Dutch, and Belgian brigades, and a fourth division comprising an Italian brigade and other units drawn from Greece and Turkey. The United States will provide Air Force elements to the corps and perhaps a division, if necessary. The force's mission is officially to back



U.S. forces practice a river-crossing during NATO maneuvers in Germany in 1988.

Pressstab Speyer

the Main Defense Force.

Publicly, it is claimed that the Rapid Reaction Force will only be deployable in the NATO area. The current debate around whether such a force should be under NATO or Western European Union control is misleading. The consensus among the Anglo-American policymakers is that an out-of-area role backed by NATO is unrealistic, since it requires unanimous agreement by all NATO member nations. The Gulf war demonstrated that such backing is not actually necessary, since the United States, Great Britain, as well as other NATO countries were able to deploy to the Gulf with NATO forces and backed by the NATO logistical base without any formal agreement, but simply under the "consultation" clauses of the NATO charter.

Therefore, the Rapid Reaction Force, comprised of primarily British troops and under British command, while created under NATO supervision and NATO logistical and financial support, could in reality be deployed by the British government anywhere in the world as a British national force, simply following "consultation" with other NATO nations, whose agreement or disagreement would have limited if any influence on a decision which would ultimately be made in London.

A snub by the United States

Washington and London are all but ignoring the economic crisis in Central and Eastern Europe, relegating these countries to the status of "buffer states." This was underscored at a conference in The Hague just a few days before the NATO meeting. The May 22-23 meeting on Parliamentary Democracy and International Security Policy, sponsored by Netherlands Foreign Minister Henri Van den Broek and the Netherlands Atlantic Commission, gathered parliamentarians and experts from Western and Eastern Europe, as well as the Soviet Union. Although U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Sen. Robert Dole (R-Kan.), and Rep. Charles Rose (D-N.C.) were invited, all three canceled out. Only U.S. Ambassador to NATO William Howard Taft IV attended, giving a speech that conspicuously avoided any hint of U.S. policy concerning the vital question on the agenda.

The Americans' absence was the more striking, considering the support the Dutch foreign minister has given the Bush administration during the Gulf crisis and the current security debate in Europe. The other imperialist powers which have joined the United States in forcing an "out-of-area" role for NATO on a reluctant continental Europe—Great Britain and France—were also absent.

The economic crisis facing Europe was underscored by the Eastern and Central European spokesmen on hand. Professor Brucan, a former Romanian ambassador to Washington, charged that Western aid to Eastern Europe has been a "big hoax." He warned that the economic crisis in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union is the major threat to European security. Warning against turning the border between Eastern and Western Europe into a "Mexican border," with all its social, political, and economic implications, he declared that with a combined foreign debt of \$150 billion, Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union are paying \$10 billion annually in interest payments alone. This is while "Western aid and capital inflow can be only counted in the millions." He added, "NATO is not equipped to deal with this current threat."

Brucan's appeal was backed by Hungary's state secretary of the Foreign Ministry, Tamas Katona, who said that "every effort should be made to avoid a new Iron Curtain falling, this time dividing our continent along the welfare line. . . . There should be no place for a buffer zone in the new European security architecture, as the indivisibility of security should not remain a noble slogan, but kept in mind as an idea guiding our thinking."

Speaking privately, senior Dutch representatives bitterly told *EIR*, "If the Americans are deliberately snubbing us, it seems the only ones we can trust these days to be honest with us are the Germans." Rita Süßmuth, Speaker of the German Parliament, in open debate chastised those who saw the U.S.-led intervention into the Gulf as a great success for the alliance, since "it is not yet clear whether this Iraq war has benefited anyone as of yet."

Will Argentine military accept 'Condor' demise?

by Cynthia R. Rush

The Buenos Aires daily *Clarín* reported on May 29 that like, the legendary Incan King Tupac Amaru, "the Condor II missile will be drawn and quartered." The paper was referring to the announcement one day earlier by Defense Minister Erman González that all of the elements in the Argentine Air Force's controversial missile project must be "deactivated, dismantled, reconverted and/or rendered unusable, as per the possibilities of use in peaceful applications."

After months of pressure from the United States, and despite strong resistance from within the Armed Forces, the Menem government made the final decision to destroy the intermediate-range Condor II missile, initiated in 1985 in conjunction with the governments of Egypt and Iraq. The Bush administration has made the missile project's elimination a condition of "improved" relations with Argentina. To comply, Menem approved taking the Condor project out of the hands of the Air Force, where it was run through the National Space Research Commission, and placing it under the jurisdiction of the presidency and its new entity, the National Space Affairs Commission. As *Clarín* pointed out on May 26, "the change has clear political significance: placing the missile in civilian hands is a guarantee that the orders for destruction will be carried out." What's involved here is not just a change of name, the paper continued, but "an operation with political aims [which are] both internal and external."

Will the Air Force, and its backers in other branches of the Armed Forces, go along with the policy? This remains to be seen. The crisis within the institution is acute, as a result of International Monetary Fund (IMF) policy which mandates reducing the defense budget, as well as the size of the Armed Forces. On the same day that he announced the killing of the Condor II, Erman González also announced that the military and its civilian support personnel would be cut by more than 20,000. Currently there are 70,000 men in uniform.

The defense minister added that Argentina would shortly be signing the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), the international treaty arrangement set up in 1987 to limit the development and transfer of missile technology,

especially among developing sector countries. Until now, the Argentine government had refused to join the MTCR, on the grounds that it was "discriminatory."

Armed Forces the target

The Condor II project is a symbol of the best tradition within Argentina's Armed Forces: its involvement in scientific and technological projects whose spinoffs positively affect the development of civilian industry and the economy overall. It is this tradition which the Anglo-American establishment is determined to annihilate in the process of creating Bush's "new world order." In an article published in the May 30 *Página 12*, Congressman Juan José Casella of the opposition Radical Civic Union (UCR) correctly pointed out that by demanding the Condor's elimination, the U.S. is also denying Argentina the right to make use of its other, civilian applications, all of which are "vital for the country's future." Casella put his finger on Bush's policy of technological apartheid when he noted that such a policy represents a "new division of power in the world," between those who have technology and those who don't.

At the urging of U.S. Ambassador Terence Todman, Finance Minister Domingo Cavallo and Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella have acted obediently to implement Anglo-American policy. The British-trained Di Tella repeatedly lied that "the missile is an apparatus that has military potential . . . it was made for that, and for nothing else." The minister raved that the missile project had provoked "great concern" among the "international alliance" of the U.S., Japan, and the European Community (EC).

Many in the Air Force feel that the assault on the Condor is the final straw, however. Brig. Ernesto Crespo, head of the Air Force under President Raúl Alfonsín, (1983-89), reflected this in an interview published in the May 18 issue of *Página 12*. Earlier, he had charged that by acceding to U.S. pressures on the Condor, Argentina was becoming "a banana republic." He told *Página 12*: "I haven't attacked the military institution, nor republican institutions . . . but I think it is a deplorable country which allows foreigners to come in and control what we do or don't do. That's what I said." Although under house arrest because of his earlier statements, Crespo risked further sanctions by saying that "I think U.S. interference in our internal affairs has gone too far." Directly referencing Di Tella's behavior, he added that "I think it is an outrage for a foreign minister to say that it's all right for the U.S. to act as the gendarme of the world."

Regional goals

The assault on the Condor II and on Argentina's Armed Forces is part of the broader Bush administration policy for the entire continent. As is being discussed at the meeting of the Organization of American States (OAS), which began on June 3 in Santiago de Chile, the administration's Enter-

prise for the Americas "integration" scheme—based on free trade and neo-liberal "structural reform"—cannot abide the existence of armed forces in any country which maintain a commitment to the defense of national sovereignty. Venezuelan President Carlos Andrés Pérez is one of the loudest proponents of leaving behind "archaic" principles such as national sovereignty and "non-intervention," and embracing new regional security mechanisms.

The Buenos Aires daily *Ambito Financiero* reported bluntly on May 31 that the existence of the Armed Forces is actually an *obstacle* to the Bush policy of creating regional economic blocs to permit Ibero-American nations to increase their trade with the U.S. Therefore, *Ambito* said, "What is required now is a total reorganization of the Armed Forces to guarantee democracy, and to move forward in eliminating borders." A key part of that reorganization is the plan to deploy the military to fight drugs, on a regional basis, it reported, adding that the presence of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in the Southern Cone "has been one of the most formidable elements of U.S. diplomatic, economic, political and moral pressure in Latin America."

Noting that the U.S. goal at the OAS meeting is to devise new regional security mechanisms which are "coherent with democracy," the same daily reported on May 31 that the Bush administration is worried that recent displays of unrest within the Argentine and Brazilian armed forces could prevent successful implementation of this agenda. Claims by Argentine and Brazilian military leaders that austerity policies have dismembered their institutions and left their countries "defenseless," make Washington very nervous. In all of Ibero-America, it is the Argentine and Brazilian military institutions which have been most strongly committed to the doctrine that economic, industrial, and technological development is a matter of national security.

Argentine military resistance to Anglo-American policy is intensified by the fact that neighboring Chile is apparently an exception to the U.S. demand for regional disarmament. Only 24 hours after Defense Minister Erman González announced plans to destroy the Condor II and reduce the size of the Armed Forces, the directors of Chile's Army holding company, FAMAL, held a public press conference to display an impressive arsenal of weapons, allegedly for sale abroad. This included a presentation of the short-range Ray missile, built jointly by the Chilean Army and the British Royal Ordnance Co.

Britain and Chile have allied historically against Argentina, most recently during the 1982 Malvinas War, and Argentine military leaders have no doubts that the neighboring country would lend itself again to any Anglo-American plan to provoke a war between the two on behalf of a new "regional order." Argentine-Chilean border incidents, and recent Chilean police attacks on Argentine soccer fans attending a game in Santiago, are a worrisome sign of what the Anglo-Americans may be planning.

'Anti-drug' accord buries economic and military sovereignty of Peru

by Luis Vásquez Medina

On May 14, in an unexpected appearance before the Peruvian Congress, President Alberto Fujimori announced that his government had just signed an "anti-drug" accord with the United States. The Bush-Fujimori agreement, praised by U.S. government officials as a model for the region, sets a dangerous precedent for the elimination of national sovereignty in the Americas in two crucial areas.

First, under the guise of a supposed war on drugs, the accord, a *bilateral* treaty with the United States, requires as a condition for anti-drug collaboration that the government of Peru implement a specific economic policy. According to Article 17 of the agreement, Peru is obliged to continue the liberal "structural adjustment" policy which has meant genocide. This not only violates Peru's sovereign control over its internal policies, but these are the very economic policies which spread the narcotics trade in the first place. As is known—Peru's judiciary even recognized this fact in 1986 in examining the ultra-liberal economic policy applied by then-Finance and Prime Minister Manuel Ulloa during 1980-83—liberal policies are the primary cause of the rapid expansion of drug trafficking and the underground economy.

Second, the accord subordinates Peru's military—from planning of strategy, to operational command—to U.S. dictates. The central axis of the accord is the creation of a "bilateral association" between the two governments which will determine policy jointly for all aspects relating to the drug trade. In the case of Peru, where narco-terrorists now control or dominate an estimated one-third to one-half of Peru's territory, to hand command of narco-terrorist strategy in Peru to the United States, is to de facto hand control of *all* domestic military strategy to a foreign government. The extent of this control is astounding. Point 25 of the accord specifies that the "bilateral association"—the United States—must take the responsibility to "feed, equip, train, provide uniforms, and adequately support the military and police forces which will fight drug trafficking."

Moreover, the anti-drug agreement establishes the possibility that U.S. troops will be deployed on Peruvian soil. During his recent trip to Venezuela, Fujimori openly referenced the likely deployment of U.S. advisers to the Peruvian Amazon region. The agreement's author, Hernando de Soto,

told the press on May 17 that "the militarization of the region is a fact, and if you weren't aware of it, it's possible that there are as many DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] agents there as there are in Bolivia."

Blackmail over debt

Prior to the signing of the bilateral agreement entitled "Agreement for Drug Control Policy and Alternative Development," the United States exerted outrageous pressure on Peru. One week prior to the signing, Vice President Máximo San Román appeared on Lima television to report that the United States was conditioning its participation in the "support group"—the group of industrialized nations which is financing \$800 million of Peru's arrears with the International Monetary Fund—to the signing of the anti-drug agreement. Roberto MacLean, Peru's ambassador in Washington and Hernando de Soto's former lawyer, had sent a number of similar messages to Lima.

U.S. pressure was not aimed at the Fujimori government, which has offered abundant proof of its submission to the Bush administration. Rather, it was directed at the growing civilian and military opposition, which became visible as soon as news of the agreement became known. There's no question that this opposition will continue to grow, and will have unpredictable consequences, once the accord is put into effect. By naming Hernando de Soto as the Peruvian negotiator, Fujimori had already discounted any possibility of a sovereign negotiation. De Soto, whose economic quackery has been praised by George Bush, was denounced in 1987 by *EIR* for having been financed by the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), a front organization for the Washington, D.C.-based Project Democracy apparatus. Exposed as a "secret government" apparatus in the Iran-Contra scandal, Project Democracy promotes the legalization of the "black" or "underground" economy, including drug trafficking.

It was the Bush administration and De Soto's Institute for Liberty and Democracy (ILD), exclusively, which discussed and wrote the anti-drug accord. With blatant disregard for the Constitution, these parties excluded any role for the Peruvian Congress.

Drug trade to continue

It is not just the anti-drug accord's commitment to neo-liberal economic policies which makes a farce of any war on drugs. The U.S. has allocated a miserable \$100 million for purposes of coca eradication (not to be disbursed until 1992), which is a pittance for eradicating or permanently substituting with other crops, the more than 300,000 hectares of coca cultivated in the country.

With no real provisions for funding or investment, the accord's centerpiece is the granting of property titles to peasants who now illegally grow coca. The accord states that only *after* this legal mechanism is applied, can further agreements for crop substitution be made with the coca growers, who can then also hope to apply for bank loans. De Soto, the author of this "brilliant" strategy, explains that this is the only way the government can establish a presence in the coca-growing regions and be better situated to negotiate power with the narco-terrorist groups which currently control them.

Most analysts in Lima agree that this accord is bound to fail; the U.S. financing involved is pathetic, while Peru's institutions for financial development are completely bankrupt. Nor do agricultural producers have any possibility of selling their goods, due to lack of communication and transportation infrastructure. Only the granting of property titles to coca growers, then, would be implemented; under existing conditions, any effort to impose crop substitution would unleash a social explosion, which would only benefit narco-terrorism.

U.S. troops in the Andes

As *EIR* indicated months ago, the Bush administration's new imperial order entails a permanent U.S. troop presence on the South American continent. For the strategists who, unfortunately, have decision-making power in Washington, wars of subversion are the simplest mechanism to destroy Peru's Armed Forces and eliminate any concept of the nation. As has already occurred in the case of the anti-drug accord signed between the U.S. and Bolivia, the accord with Peru has unleashed growing anti-U.S. ferment. The narco-terrorist groups Shining Path and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), have been handed the pretext to raise the anti-imperialist banner against the "Yankee invader." Already the San Martín Front for the Defense of Popular Interests and the Selva Maestre Agrarian Federation, both front groups for the MRTA in the coca-growing Huallaga region, have called for a general uprising. Just days before the signing of the accord, the MRTA carried out the most spectacular action to date. A 1,000-man army took the capital city of Rioja in the Huallaga Valley, destroyed police headquarters, and took 11 policemen hostage.

Oiga magazine, which on matters of security and subversion functions as a mouthpiece for factions of the Peruvian Navy, has predicted that the accord will accelerate the pro-

cess of permanent civil war in the Peruvian Amazon. The correctness of *Oiga's* analysis is shown by the fact that Article 16 of the accord, allegedly to guarantee defense of human rights, states that "both parties agree that they should include provisions such as granting unrestricted access to the International Committee of the Red Cross" in zones of conflict. As De Soto admitted, this measure was imposed by the U.S. negotiators. As a further assault on Peruvian sovereignty, subsequent to the signing of the accord, De Soto began negotiations to bring in the United Nations to oversee the implementation of the accord, citing numerous requests for U.N. presence from coca growers.

Curiously, the first thing the MRTA did after taking Rioja was to ask for the intervention of the International Red Cross to negotiate the freedom of the police hostages. To make the point, the MRTA sent the mayor of Rioja to Lima to personally negotiate the Red Cross intervention. *Oiga* commented appropriately that "if the government agrees to allow the Red Cross to participate in negotiations with the MRTA, this would give [the MRTA] sufficient cause to appeal to the Geneva Convention and demand international recognition as a belligerent force; that is, their status would be elevated, granting them the same juridical standing as our Armed Forces, and even the right to attend international forums to pose their demands."

Emasculating the Army

The signing of the agreement takes place at a most unfortunate moment for Peru's Armed Forces. Government austerity policies have reduced military wages to miserable levels; their Soviet-supplied equipment is obsolete, and there is little hope of replacing it. The Armed Forces must face entire narco-terrorist armies under politically adverse conditions, characterized by the tendentious "human rights" campaign which the U.S. State Department has directed against them.

The anti-drug accord wants to redefine the role of Peru's Armed Forces. U.S. "drug czar" Bob Martinez stated in Lima, and repeated in La Paz, that the Bush administration's goal is to have the Peruvian Armed Forces function within the accord as mere anti-drug police. This has provoked great concern among nationalist military layers. Just days after the signing of the accord, the former Armed Forces Chief of Staff, retired Gen. Carlos Mauricio, stated in Lima that the role of the Armed Forces cannot be divorced from three major problems: subversion, drug-trafficking, and underdevelopment, which must be confronted simultaneously, because they are intimately linked. A few weeks earlier, he had called for the application of a Marshall Plan in the Upper Huallaga Valley, the largest coca-producing region in the world, to put an end to drug-trafficking. Such a plan would have to be based on investment in transportation infrastructure, to make it possible to transport agricultural products from the zones where coca is now produced illegally, to coastal urban cities where people are suffering hunger and malnutrition.

'Ibero-America's corrupt democracies are politically in question'

The following editorial is taken from the introduction to a recently published special issue of Resúmen Ejecutivo, the Spanish-language edition of EIR, which is dedicated to the subject of George Bush's "new world order" and its proposal to dismantle the armed forces of Ibero-America as part of a broader scheme to impose the supranational concept of "limited sovereignty" on the nations of the world.

The United States, with the complicity of the other major powers, is seeking to dismantle Ibero-America's armed forces. The premises upon which this effort is being undertaken are essentially four:

1) that the East-West conflict is over and, with it, Soviet-inspired armed subversion.

2) that the war doctrines of the region's armed forces are essentially outmoded, because they anticipate possible conflicts with bordering nations or invasion from extraregional powers. The primary concern now is with the "collective defense of democracy."

3) that, for these reasons, Ibero-America's armed forces have no need for advanced weaponry nor, in general, for modern military technology (be it for combat, logistics, communications, intelligence, etc.).

4) that, therefore, Ibero-America's armed forces can and should be subject to the same budgetary constraints that have been imposed on other areas of public expenditure. This means, for example, drastic cutbacks in personnel, reduction of troop wages, elimination of various military corps and, even, of entire military institutions.

From these premises stem, explicitly or implicitly, all the statements and proposals that are being made against the region's military forces.

• The Trilateral Commission proposes the creation of a sort of NATO of the Americas, which would turn all of the region's military forces into mere appendages of the United States. Armed Forces, dedicated to the "collective defense of local democracies," and "to protect their citizens from criminal violence," along with units of a "permanent regional police" dedicated to such tasks as George Bush's mythical

"war" on drugs.

• A May 20 article in the *Christian Science Monitor* demanded a "regional security alliance" on the NATO model, so that the nations of the continent could "share the burden of military costs" and thus "free up funds for social welfare and economic development." The article quotes a recent paper by former U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara which, according to the *Monitor*, "reveals the extent to which sumptuous military budgets extract tribute from their societies."

• Former Central Intelligence Agency director William Colby declared that "Mexico doesn't need an army," but rather "some kind of police force." For Colby, according to an interview he gave to the Mexican daily *El Financiero* of May 9, Ibero-America's armies "are necessary as symbols, to display them on parade," but "they absorb money that could be used in education and social programs."

The Ibero-American puppets of the great powers have the same line. Argentine ambassador to Brazil José Manuel de la Sota has proposed that Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay sign a pact to "defend democracy in the Southern Cone." Should any of these four countries suffer an attempted military coup, the others would respond with sanctions, a trade blockade, and even with "the deployment of troops to defend the legitimate government."

Venezuelan President Carlos Andrés Pérez has been similarly proposing a reform of the Organization of American States which would convert it into a supranational police agency in charge of intervening "in defense of democracy." During a recent trip to Colombia, Pérez repeatedly called for a "modification" of the concept of national sovereignty, both to "more efficiently battle the drug traffickers" and "so that the rights today being established as supranational, and which gave rise to the United Nations' ordered intervention to restore territorial sovereignty to the state of Kuwait, exist in full force." Pérez has also urged the creation of an "international police" force for the region.

Even a superficial review of the region's strategic situation discredits the false premises behind this grand scheme.

Armed subversion a continuing threat

Putting aside for the moment the subversion promoted by the Soviet Union, and even pretending that the communist regime of Fidel Castro has disappeared, the fact remains that in Nicaragua, the Sandinistas remain firmly entrenched in the command of the Armed Forces there—in large part, thanks to the intervention of Venezuelan President Carlos Andrés Pérez.

In El Salvador, the communist guerrillas have not been defeated, and in fact appear on the verge of being awarded half the country with the blessings of these same defenders of “democracy.” In Guatemala, despite years of war, the guerrillas have not been eradicated.

In Colombia, narco-terrorists are on the verge of capturing power; they have already created a dual-power situation, turning the spurious National Constituent Assembly into something even worse: a *soviet* under the direction of M-19 narco-terrorist Antonio Navarro Wolf. Something like this has not happened since the 1971 creation of a *soviet* in Bolivia, or the attempt by Salvador Allende to abolish the Chilean Congress in 1973.

In Peru, Shining Path and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) control one-third of national territory.

In Argentina, the 1989 assault on the La Tablada barracks revealed that terrorist organizations still exist there, prepared to launch a new power bid at the first opportune moment.

In Brazil, extremists tied to subversion exist in at least one of the country’s most important political parties.

And in Venezuela, the so-called *Caracazo* riots of February 1989 proved that the conditions of misery and deprivation caused by the International Monetary Fund’s austerity prescriptions create a breeding ground for social violence, in which subversive projects can more easily thrive.

It is thus absurd to maintain that the supposed end of the East-West conflict has eliminated the threat of armed subversion. It is true that border conflicts between neighbors should be avoided, but it is equally true that triggering these conflicts is a deliberate part of the superpowers’ strategy. Regarding the issue of threats from outside the region, one need only refer to the ongoing assault against Ibero-American sovereignty—for example, under the pretext of “protecting the Amazon ecology”—to fully justify the determination of the armed forces of nations like Brazil to defend themselves.

Denying Third World technology

And such defense demands access to advanced military technology. It could not be clearer that Washington’s opposition to the possession of modern weaponry by Ibero-America’s armed forces is a central aspect of the policy of technological apartheid which characterizes George Bush’s much-touted “new world order.” For this same reason, Washington would prohibit Ibero-America from exploiting nuclear ener-

gy or developing aerospace programs. The gentlemen of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council have already declared themselves to be the exclusive owners of 21st-century technology.

The claim that military budgets consume resources necessary for education and social welfare is similarly fraudulent. Payment of tribute to foreign usury is what is sucking the nations of the region dry. In 1980, Ibero-America’s total foreign debt was \$242.535 billion. Between then and 1989, the region has paid \$337.499 billion in interest payments alone. And yet, today, it owes \$438.636 billion, most of that due to rising interest rates, debt “refinancings,” and similar frauds. Ibero-America’s foreign debt has already been paid. All the rest is sheer usury.

What makes this picture even worse, is the corruption of those “democratic” politicians who serve usury, the same politicians who grow rich through the looting of their nations, who cooperate with these campaigns against the armed forces and who want a “permanent regional police force” to come defend them if they should get in trouble. Examples abound: the lover of one South American President who has a \$5 million apartment in New York; the children of another politician who adorn themselves with the profits of Israeli weapons trafficking; an Argentine President who emerges from one scandal only to become mired in another. Not to mention the finance ministers who serve on the payroll of the international banks.

Encyclical denounces corrupt democracies

The corruption of the “democracies” is so scandalous that Pope John Paul II had harsh words for them in his most recent encyclical. He said that “the Church appreciates the democratic system,” but that “an authentic democracy is only possible in a state of law and on the basis of a dignified concept of the human person.” If democracy is to be taken seriously, it must respect fundamental rights, starting with the right to life. Even “in those countries where democratic forms of government rule, these rights are not always totally respected,” he added.

John Paul II asserts that in today’s democracies, “the questions posed to society are often not examined according to the criteria of justice and morality, but rather in accordance with the electoral or financial strength of the groups which sustain them.”

From the standpoint of objective reality, there can be no doubt that sovereign nations need modern, well-equipped, well-trained, and well-paid armed forces, a patriotic model for the entire population. Further, what is morally and politically in question are the corrupt democracies which betray their nations through their servility to what the papal encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno* of Pius XI called “the noxious and detestable internationalism of capital, that is, international imperialism in financial affairs, which holds that where a man’s fortune is, there is his country.”

No proof of Tigers' role in Gandhi death

by Ramtanu Maitra

If the media, domestic and abroad, is any indication, there would be hardly any doubt that the Sri Lankan separatist terrorists, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), masterminded the bomb-explosion which killed India's former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and a dozen others at an election rally near Madras city on May 21. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), ostensibly solely in charge of the investigation, is routinely detaining Tamils of Sri Lankan origin, and the newspapers are duly carrying the stories every day. Leading Congress Party members, such as Kalpanath Rai from Uttar Pradesh and Dr. Channa Reddy of Andhra Pradesh, have announced to the press that the killing is the handiwork of the Tamil Tigers, and no local Indian groups should be blamed.

But behind this crescendo of consensus formation (a practice highly unfamiliar in India on most social, political, or economic issues), the facts that have come to light in no way make the case.

For instance:

- According to *The Hindu* of May 28, the Special Investigation Team of the CBI is, a week after the crime, desperately looking for the break which will further its probe. In short, no decisive evidence in hand.

- As of the end of May, the woman who allegedly strapped the lethal charge to her waist and triggered it at point blank range against Rajiv Gandhi, and whose lower limbs and head were found intact at the scene of the crime, is yet to be identified. At first it was stated she wore a wig, and was therefore in disguise, a claim later proved to be false.

- The alleged assassin was immediately dubbed a "Tamil of Sri Lankan origin," and one news report went so far as to claim that she came from the same district in Sri Lanka as the Tamil Tiger leader V. Pirabhakaran. In fact, as former chief minister of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, M. Karnanidhi, ostensibly a friend of the Sri Lankan separatist Tamil Tigers, pointed out, all that can be said of the woman is that she was dark-complexioned, a feature not uncommon throughout southern India.

- On May 25, *The Hindu* reported that a top Tiger leader, Kasi Anandan, had met Rajiv Gandhi at the latter's New Delhi residence in early March. The Tamil Tigers' leaders

reported that they found Mr. Gandhi was not hostile toward them, and their leader Pirabhakaran, from his hideout in northern Sri Lanka, welcomed reopening the channel with Mr. Gandhi. Though leading Congress Party members denied the report, *The Hindu* revealed that its source was none other than the late Rajiv Gandhi himself. Undaunted, Congress members continue to claim that the meeting is an Tiger ruse.

- On May 28, the *Times of India* reported, front page, that the assassin's accomplice had been arrested—a difficult proposition when the assassin herself remains unidentified. It was a catchy story held together by "suspected LTTE links."

The effort to place unilateral blame has been complemented by intelligence leaks. Early on, we were informed that the assassins, with "suspected LTTE links," trailed Mr. Gandhi and would have committed their crime somewhere during the Tamil Nadu campaign tour. Now, leaks are pointing at some other Sri Lankan groups which also enjoy free movement in Tamil Nadu.

In the drumbeat around the LTTE, two crucial facts have been virtually buried. First, the bomb's switching device and battery were foreign made, and the entire explosive device highly sophisticated. This does not establish the LTTE as the author of the crime, but it does establish that the murderer had a foreign connection.

Tamil Tigers lacked motive

Much more important is the failure to identify the benefit to the Tigers of assassinating Rajiv Gandhi or any other top Indian leader. LTTE has built up assets over the years and has been constantly trying to open the channel with New Delhi so that their "liberation struggle" in Sri Lanka does not fail. If the LTTE is identified as the killers of Rajiv Gandhi, this effort will be destroyed. No Indian government will lift a finger against the Sri Lankan government's annihilation of the group. Unless the LTTE simply loves to kill anyone it does not like, the motive seems very weak.

Meanwhile, the statement of Benazir Bhutto, former prime minister of Pakistan, that Rajiv Gandhi was a "victim of the new world order," went undiscussed in New Delhi. Likewise the May 23 editorials in the *Teheran Times* and *Jamhuri-ye Eslami* of Iran charging that U.S. intelligence was behind the plot. Neither did the London *Sunday Times* editorial—India should have been broken up into "thousands of Hong Kongs" long ago—receive more than passing attention.

No doubt, pinning the blame on the LTTE is most convenient for Indian officials. The Khalistanis' involvement in Mrs. Indira Gandhi's assassination led to a whole range of ethnic problems which resulted in the shutdown of the case. If the Tamil Tigers are blamed for the Rajiv Gandhi assassination, no one in India, except for a few security men, have to answer for anything. Perhaps the Indian government will even hang the LTTE chief *in absentia* as the finale to yet another high-level assassination.

Sabotage charged at Pakistan ammo dump

by Susan B. Maitra and Ramtanu Maitra

The May 31 explosion at the army ammunition dump in the Nowshera garrison, bordering Afghanistan and not far from Peshawar where the Afghan Mujahideen are based, claimed 80 lives and sent people in the surrounding areas scurrying for shelter. Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has warned that the explosion is a prelude to the blowing up of the controversial nuclear facility at Kahuta.

Bhutto informed the lower house of Pakistan's National Assembly on June 2 that PLO leader Yassir Arafat had told her during their meeting at New Delhi, where they attended the funeral of India's assassinated former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, that he had "solid information that there is a plan to attack Kahuta." Arafat also told her that the sabotage has been planned "from within and not outside." Bhutto told the stunned National Assembly members that sabotage at Nowshera cannot be ruled out and "after Nowshera, the target will be Kahuta."

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg had earlier told reporters that he suspects sabotage as the cause behind the blowup of the Nowshera ammo dump.

The Nowshera explosion is similar to the ammo dump explosion at the Ojheri Camp near Rawalpindi on April 10, 1988. Official figures showed the Ojheri explosion had killed 100 people and injured 1,000 more. Unofficial estimates, however, indicate that five times as many lives were lost. Despite repeated promises from the government, the report on the cause of the Ojheri dump explosion has not seen the daylight.

About four months after the explosion, President Mohammed Zia ul-Haq, along with his top army brass and the U.S. ambassador to Pakistan, died in a mysterious plane crash in southeastern Sindh, near Bahawalpur. For both these events, many in Pakistan, and some outside, accused the United States.

The Ojheri explosion was also suspected sabotage, carried out to weaken President Zia. The ammo dump was a secret storage place for U.S. arms and ammunition for the Afghan Mujahideen who were carrying out an undeclared war against the Soviet Union. The arms were mostly channeled to one group among the Mujahideen, the Hezb-e-Islami, led by fundamentalist Gulbuddin Hekmatyar—and this did not please a section of policymakers in Washington. According to some, this is what led to the blowing up of the Ojheri ammunition camp.

President Zia's death was similarly related to his role in Afghan affairs. After financing and arming Pakistan for almost a decade to fight the "Red menace," Washington found other ways to subvert the Soviets. While Washington was carrying out rapprochement with Moscow and the tired Red Army was trudging back home after burying many in Afghanistan, President Zia's zeal to unseat the Soviet-backed Kabul government through a group of Muslim fundamentalists was no longer desired by Washington, and was even seen as an affront. By 1988, President Zia had become more of a liability to Washington than the asset he had been in earlier days.

In the case of Nowshera, it is widely acknowledged that the Hekmatyar faction's success against the Kabul government in wresting away the town of Khost in April made both Washington and Moscow unhappy. By blowing up the Nowshera ammo dump, a message has been sent to Islamabad that Hekmatyar's activities, in collusion with Saudi intelligence and Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence, are not liked by some in Pakistan who think the same as some in Washington and Moscow.

Probe of Zia crash reopened

At the same time, on June 4, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif suddenly decided to appoint federal Interior Minister Shujaat Hussain to head a commission to investigate, and report on, the Aug. 17, 1988 plane crash that killed Zia. Sharif, a leading industrialist from Punjab who was inducted into high politics by Zia himself, had never hinted that he was dissatisfied with the earlier investigations into Zia's death.

Whether Prime Minister Sharif's move is a slap at Washington or not, Sharif has shown deep concerns about Washington's increasing armtwisting of Pakistan to give up its nuclear program. In recent months, Islamabad has faced a growing consensus in the Bush administration and Congress, to force Pakistan to open up its nuclear facilities to inspection. Washington suspended \$570 million in economic and military aid to Pakistan for the year 1990-91. Accusations have also been leveled by U.S. Naval Intelligence that Pakistan is one of the "possible" acquirers of chemical weapons.

The spate of accusations, economic blackmail through the International Monetary Fund, and the ammunition explosion at Nowshera all point to the reality that Pakistan is facing grave dangers. Yassir Arafat, who claimed that he had cautioned Rajiv Gandhi about a month ago about the dangers to Gandhi's life, has a competent network within Pakistan, and support to the network stems from those who had all along been critical about the U.S. collusion with Israel on the Palestinian issue. The U.S. determination to annihilate Iraq and the Iraqi people has only helped to harden their stance.

It is not unlikely that PLO intelligence has got onto something, and Bhutto's statement was designed to preempt the planned strike against the Kahuta nuclear facility. Nonetheless, it is evident that the gloves are off, and Pakistan is left with no choice but to defend its assets.

Edith Cresson becomes new premier

Most indications are that the change is more of a media show than a real shift in policy.

The much-touted change of French prime minister appears at first sight to be more a media show than a real political shift. Some observers liken it to President François Mitterrand's moves during the Gulf crisis of fall-winter 1990, which seemed to favor peace, but were merely decoys to make the war more acceptable to French public opinion.

True, Edith Cresson replaces Michel Rocard, after having for eight months sharply attacked Rocard's "lack of will and decisiveness," and she calls for "a true industrial policy," based on the development of continental Europe. She has frequently attacked "Thatcherite economics," in the name of "European, French, and workers' interests."

True also, if the Mitterrand-Rocard divorce seems amicable at first sight, it is a real break. Rocard had often made it clear that he wanted to be premier until the parliamentary elections of 1993. Instead, he was dumped in the middle of a Parliament session.

The question remains: Is this a change for real or a tactical move responding to public opinion perceptions and factional warfare within the ruling Socialist Party?

At this point, except for Cresson's pledge to improve the financing of French small and middle-sized firms "following the German model," nothing has come up yet to sustain the thesis of a real change.

A lot points in the other direction. First, the new government is almost the same as the old one. Notably, Pierre Bérégovoy, who ran the "liberal" shift of the Socialist Party in 1983-84, not only remains as economics and finance minister, but takes over the Industry

Ministry, becoming a sort of deputy prime minister in command of all the key economic policy portfolios.

Second, Mrs. Cresson is known to be a pure product of the Mitterrand kindergarten; all her career, and some say even more, is due to the Mitterrand "fatherly" hand upon her.

Third, the Rocard ouster seems to favor more than anything else the political future of Laurent Fabius, currently head of the National Assembly, Mitterrand's number one favorite and prime minister during the 1983-84 liberal shift.

Fourth, no strong statement of a policy change away from liberalism has yet been made; on the contrary, everybody seems to keep the "consensus" profile of the Rocard era, with what is called in Paris a touch of *gauche* (leftism).

Many commentators stress that Cresson is being used by Mitterrand to give the impression of a change at the head of the government, and to calm down the growing ferment in the industrialists' layers, where only a few months ago, there was a strong demand for investment in infrastructure, technology, and basic industry. Cresson has organized her government from her offices at Schneider, an industrial holding company headed by "new industrialist" Didier Pineau-Valencienne, known for his attachment to the international financial-industrial establishment.

Cresson's husband, Jacques Cresson, was one of the managers of the Peugeot automobile producer, now headed by Jacques Calvet, head of the ultra-protectionist and anti-Japanese faction of the French industrialists' association. Cresson, recently praised

Calvet to the hilt.

Further, it must be stressed that the French institutional shift toward submission to Atlanticism and malthusian financial forces is too deep to be simply changed by the head of the government, especially when that person is a darling of a President who initiated the shift himself!

Still, the Cresson appointment reflects an "answer" to a resistance in the French opinion and industrialists to that shift. That provides some limited leverage, at least momentarily, for a real change. And Cresson's best quality is that she enjoys situations where the rules of the game are broken.

This "voluntarist" dimension of her character expresses itself in her economic convictions, in the form of a "neo-Colbertism" which she constantly reaffirms, and situates in opposition to Anglo-American financial ideology.

Mrs. Cresson has frequently scored the post-industrial society. She criticizes the banks for failing to supply credits at the interest rates which industry needs, and the school system, which is incapable of producing engineers, technicians, and skilled workers.

In her general policy statement, her constant theme was priority to industry. Among the few pledges she did make, one was to "encourage the banks and other financial institutions to orient to productive development" and to keep to the target of doubling the number of engineers of 1990 by 1993.

More concretely, she reaffirmed the importance of the French-German alliance in foreign policy. Her closest adviser, Abel Farnoux, is a former industrial manager and old resistance fighter, who keeps numerous ties with the German anti-Nazis he met in the camps, in a network favoring European industrial cooperation.

Gaviria's surrender to narcos exposed

The democratic resistance is doing its best to awaken Colombia's citizens, before it's too late.

The pact according to which the César Gaviria government in Colombia has negotiated the supposed "surrender" of drug kingpin Pablo Escobar, and the scandalous terms of that "surrender," stood exposed in a devastating front-page story published by the daily *El Espectador* on May 30.

Under the title "Operation Surrender," the anti-drug daily charged that among the terms imposed by Escobar as the condition for his surrender to Colombian authorities are: "the withdrawal of the police generals and suspension of activities of the Elite Force and DIJIN [special police units] in Antioquia—the province where Escobar has his refuge; legalization of his properties and money; his exclusion from trial on charges of terrorism; and the retention of his bodyguards in his eventual place of confinement."

According to *El Espectador's* information, Escobar's lawyers also demanded that National Police Gen. Miguel Antonio Gómez Padilla be fired, and that the commander of the Administrative Security Department, or DAS (Colombia's equivalent of the FBI), be exiled in a diplomatic post abroad. They also demanded that the place where Escobar and a select group of associates do their presumed few months of penance be set totally apart from any other building; that it be located on a rise where all surroundings are in view; that it have special armored windows and walls; that it be protected by a small army, including both members of Escobar's bodyguard and an elite military unit

whose members would all have to be approved in advance by Escobar; and that the "jail" be equipped with closed-circuit television, radar, and anti-air defenses.

"I consider it homage paid to the institution [National Police] and to myself that Pablo Escobar Gaviria has demanded that I be removed from this position," said police director General Gómez Padilla upon learning of *El Espectador's* information.

On the same day that the details of "Operation Surrender" were revealed, the news media received two open letters on the story. One was from President César Gaviria, the other from Pablo Escobar. The latter, describing *El Espectador* as "that yellow newspaper" and "an enemy of peace," insisted that no conditions had been imposed on the government "except those which any citizen would demand from justice and the government."

Gaviria's letter denied that his administration had agreed to any conditions, and insisted that Escobar would be treated like any other trafficker accepting the government's surrender terms. He had no comment on charges both by law enforcement figures inside Colombia and by diplomats that Escobar's surrendered partners, the three Ochoa brothers, are continuing drug-trafficking operations with impunity from their comfortable jail cells. Gaviria also denied that Escobar would be exempted from any charges; one presumes he was referring to the murders of presidential candidate Luis

Carlos Galán, of Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, of former Justice Minister Enrique Low Murtra, of police Col. Jaime Ramírez, and of the many others whose deaths have been laid at Escobar's doorstep.

Within days of the exposé of "Operation Surrender," *El Espectador's* editors received a warning that their "false morality" could undermine the deal, just as a similar deal, mediated by former President Alfonso López Michelsen, fell through in 1984, partially due to the daily's efforts. The newspaper's director and family patriarch Guillermo Cano Isaza paid for his anti-drug stance with his life, falling to an assassin's bullets in December 1986.

While various Colombian press had access to the same information on "Operation Surrender" as *El Espectador*, no others had dared to publish it.

One day before the shameful details of Gaviria's surrender to the drug cartels was published, *El Espectador* devoted its front page to an open letter to the nation by former Justice Minister Enrique Parejo González, the current ambassador to Switzerland who in 1987 barely survived a mafia hit. Parejo charged that Colombia had been "morally kidnaped," and that the National Assembly's plan to ban extradition was capitulation to "illicit pressures" from the traffickers.

While the democratic resistance strives to awaken the Colombian population before it is too late, Pablo Escobar's posh retreat is being readied—at the expense of the country's taxpayers. In addition to parabolic television antennas and a private restaurant, the drug rehabilitation center-turned-prison will include a game room and, it is said, a steam room, massage room, and jacuzzis. There has as yet been no word on whether Escobar will have a personal hot line to the presidential office.

International Intelligence

French activists demand end of sanctions on Iraq

A group of French opponents of the Gulf war called, at a press conference in Paris on May 27, for the instant lifting of U.N. sanctions against Iraq, to allow the country to rebuild crucial health and other infrastructure.

The group said they estimate the total number of war victims in Iraq at 100,000-150,000, of which one-third are civilians—mainly children, women, and the elderly.

The war critics, who include prominent figures like the retired Gaullist military figure Pierre Gallois, had been able to tour Iraq and see the destruction caused by the coalition's "precision" air attacks and the ensuing civil war. They also called for Western aid to Iraq, for the country's reconstruction.

Horn of Africa is being ripped apart

The United States has given its "tacit agreement" to an Ethiopia that will have two administrations, one Tigrey-dominated and one Eritrean-dominated, the London *Guardian* reported May 30, citing statements by a U.S. official to this effect.

Eritrea will set up its own provisional government and take no active part in a transitional administration for Ethiopia. The Eritrean People's Liberation Front said it will run the northern province of Ethiopia separately until a U.N.-supervised referendum on independence is held.

International commentators placed these developments in the context of the political and military aftermath of the war against Iraq.

"The Washington agenda for Ethiopia is quite simply part of Bush's new world order; it's neo-colonial," declared an African affairs specialist in London. "The indecent haste with which Washington has moved once [former Ethiopian President] Mengistu fled, while they did nothing for two years

but cynically let the famine and civil war reach the breaking point! . . . Our view is that Washington, with the consultation, of course, of London, aims to reestablish some form of military basing there in the wake of the Soviet disengagement of the past two years. This would give the U.S. military control over most of the Gulf region from Africa as well."

What the Horn of Africa is seeing is "a process of fragmentation," a BBC correspondent in the area commented on May 30. Earlier in the week, Northern Somalia had declared its independence, threatening the breakup of that country. This compounds the already-existing crisis in Sudan.

Ethiopia is one of the countries on the target list of a recently declassified 1974 U.S. National Security Council memorandum demanding population reduction, and it was Henry Kissinger and friends who sabotaged a mid-1970s plan that could have made Sudan the breadbasket for the entire region. That sabotage is a key causal factor in the current barbarism unfolding in the Horn of Africa.

Reunification of Korea is now on the agenda

The reunification of Korea is a real possibility, South Korean President Noh Tae Woo told a meeting of candidates on May 30, Radio Australia reported. President Noh called the North Korean government's decision to change its position on joining the U.N. a "radical change." He pointed out that German reunification had occurred very rapidly, and said that Korean reunification may likewise occur "at any moment."

The North Korean communist government of Kim Il-Sung announced that it would apply to join the United Nations simultaneously with South Korea. In a Foreign Ministry statement, the Pyongyang government said that it had "no alternative but to enter the United Nations at the present stage as a step to tide over such temporary difficulties created by the South Korean authorities."

The head of a North Korean studies insti-

tute in Seoul, Kim Chang-soon, noted: "This kind of statement is the first in national history. I think the North virtually conceded defeat to the South in the statement." It is known that Japan was encouraging North Korea to move in this direction, and it is thought that the People's Republic of China also had a role in this. As early as January, indications began to surface that North Korea was thinking increasingly of strong relations with Asian countries. The North has voiced support for Malaysia's economic bloc initiative—as has the South.

Both Koreas said they hoped U.N. membership would lead toward eventual unification of the peninsula. By applying for U.N. membership, North Korea is doing two things that it has avoided for four decades: It gives tacit recognition to the existence of the Seoul government as a legitimate governing body, and it deviates for the first time from its one-Korea policy. The one-Korea policy had maintained that there was only one Korean nation and that the government of Pyongyang was its rightful seat.

Bangladesh's problem is not its population

Bangladesh, which was recently devastated by a cyclone, is not suffering from its population growth but from the after-effects of British colonialism, the German Christian weekly *Rheinischer Merkur* wrote in its issue of May 21.

Denouncing those politicians and media that are speaking of Bangladesh's alleged "nuclear over-population bomb," the article says that once, Bengal was one of the culturally most developed and richest regions in the world. Bengali scientists invented the decimal system, on which all modern mathematics is based. That system was brought to the rest of the world 1,200 years ago by Arab scientists and merchants, who always spoke of "golden Bengal."

"The country has been exposed to impoverishment for the past 200 years," the article continues. "In 1765, the British East India

Company acquired the privilege of tax-collection from the local Mogul; there is no question that this launched one of the darkest periods of European colonial history. Bengal was plundered in a matter of a few decades, while London turned into the richest city of the world, thanks to the East Indian treasures. [Thus] England became the motherland of modern industrial capitalism.

"Bengal has not recovered from this exploitation to this date. That is why Bangladesh is the charnel-house of Asia." Not the lack of anti-birth programs, but the lack of investments in "hygienic measures, food programs for newborn children, job creation, and support of the elderly" is the real problem of Bangladesh, the article declares. The problem is not population growth, but the undersupply of food, in a region that has the same geological structure as the Netherlands and could be as rich, but has an underdeveloped infrastructure.

Algerian President declares state of siege

Algerian President Chadli Benjedid on June 5 declared a state of siege, dismissed the government, and postponed multi-party elections scheduled for later this month, following confrontations throughout the night between Algerian security forces and fundamentalists from the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) group, during which six people reportedly died.

During the day, troops and tanks patrolled the streets of the capital city of Algiers. Later, the FIS leadership, after having met in special emergency session, announced that they were suspending their protest actions.

While President Chadli may now have the upper hand against the fundamentalist destabilizers, the situation in Algeria is very tense. The FIS has been conducting increasingly riotous protest actions for nearly two weeks, denouncing the ruling FLN party and labeling Chadli an "assassin." The Algerian government has repeatedly denounced the FIS as being supported from

outside the country. Its funding is known to come from Saudi Arabia.

It is no accident that such events have been occurring after Algerian authorities warned that the country was at the top of the target list of the Bush administration and its "new world order" allies. Algeria was an outspoken opponent of the Gulf war, and its ruling party had sponsored an international conference, including participation of former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, French political leader Jacques Cheminade, and others, denouncing the genocide and juridical violations committed by the United States during the war against Iraq.

Another factor is an apparent spillover of the fundamentalist unrest in Algeria into France. The past weeks have seen explosions in suburbs of French cities inhabited by immigrants from North Africa, which have, in part, been provoked by fundamentalist networks, although the poverty and miserable living conditions prevailing in these areas have also been a key factor.

Push for Japan to join Security Council

Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney is proposing that Japan become a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, the Toronto *Globe and Mail* reported on May 31. Since the creation of the United Nations at the end of World War II, the "permanent five" have been the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain, France, and China.

At a news conference concluding a visit to Japan, Mulroney said: "If the U.N. Security Council . . . does not reflect the reality of the world as it is, not as it was 40 years ago or as it might appear to be in some people's eyes today . . . then people will find a way to circumvent that reality. So we believe that an economic superpower like Japan should be playing a progressively more important political role. We're going to encourage Japan to do that, and I suppose in the fullness of time the expression of its major role will be a much greater role in the United Nations."

● **THE ANGOLAN** government of President José Eduardo dos Santos, and the UNITA rebel forces led by Jonas Savimbi, signed a peace agreement in Lisbon, Portugal on May 31. An official cease-fire went into effect following the agreement. The deal ends a 16-year civil war. Under the terms of the agreement, the ruling "Marxist" government will open up the former colony to a "free market economy."

● **COMPUTER SYSTEMS** in the Chinese capital of Beijing have been struck by a "computer virus," in commemoration of the Tiananmen Square massacre of June 4, 1989, UPI reports. "Remember June 4" keeps showing up on the screen. The government said it might have to shut down the system for several days to cure the disease.

● **A CUBAN** "nuclear scare" is being puffed up by the media, possibly setting the stage for a Bush administration intervention there. The *Wall Street Journal-Europe* of June 4 charged that Cuba is "stepping up its nuclear power program," and that there could be "weapons potential" in a Soviet-supplied reactor which is twice the size of the Iraqi reactor which the U.S. bombed.

● **FRENCH** aerospace experts and industrialists are attacking the Bush administration's arms control plan for the Mideast. The board of the biggest French aerospace firm, Aérospatiale, said the plan was merely intended to promote U.S. arms sales in the Middle East.

● **THE SOYUZ GROUP** of Soviet parliamentarians will send a delegation to Iraq in June, at the invitation of the Iraqi ambassador. Yuri Blokhin, a spokesman for the group, told the press that "the aim of the visit is a fact-finding trip to appraise the situation in Iraq after the war, to visit sites of recent battles and places where Kurds settle."

'Operation Thyroid Storm' could drive Bush from office

by Webster G. Tarpley and Kathleen Klenetsky

There is a distinct possibility that George Bush may not be President much longer, or, if he manages to remain in power, that he will become little more than a figurehead in a government run by the "permanent establishment."

Since Bush was hospitalized on the first weekend in May for treatment of a disturbance in his heartbeat, signs have multiplied that leading circles of the Anglophile liberal U.S. Eastern Establishment are preparing an alternative to Bush, possibly before the 1992 elections.

Despite efforts of the White House to downplay his disorder, the real extent of the President's thyroid-related mental debilitation is gradually emerging into view. Bush is coming into focus as a man on an emotional roller coaster, afflicted by obsessive rage states, and manifestly unable to function as President in a crisis. As this situation becomes more widely known, it is likely that Bush will be unable to govern.

Did thyroid launch war?

Questions are being raised far and wide about the effect Bush's thyroid disorder—whose common symptoms include hyperactivity, emotional lability, lack of concentration, impulsive behavior, and even psychosis and death—has had on the conduct of his presidency, and especially to what extent it contributed to his decision to launch the Persian Gulf war. Even the *Washington Times*, which violently supported Bush's Mideast adventure, ran an article in its May 23 edition headlined "White House Denies Thyroid Launched War."

One reason for this concern may be that Bush's health may be much worse than has been publicly reported, especially as regards the impact of his thyroid condition on his ability to make rational decisions. Secondly, the establishment may now estimate that the disastrous internal situation of the United States, especially in terms of the economic and social crisis, may make Bush's reelection uncertain, especially if a serious opposition were to appear.

An important signal piece in this direction came in the form of a commentary by William Hyland in the May 20 *New York Times* under the title "Downgrade Foreign Policy." A long-time associate of Henry Kissinger and currently a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and the editor of *Foreign Affairs*, the quarterly magazine of the New York Council on Foreign Relations, Hyland is an important institutional figure of the foreign policy establishment.

Hyland's thesis: "The United States has never been less threatened by foreign forces than it is today. But the unfortunate corollary is that never since the Great Depression has the threat to domestic well-being been greater. . . . We need a new order in both foreign and domestic policy. President Bush should issue a broad statement of principles and aims for domestic policy, as President Truman did for foreign policy with the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, and the creation of NATO. . . . A doctrine that recognizes that we do, in fact, face a domestic crisis and that outlines a program for dealing with it is sorely needed." Hyland goes on to say that existing foreign commitments must be scaled down, and no new commitments assumed because of the "disastrous domestic agenda: crime, drugs, education, urban crises, federal budget deficits and a constant squeeze on the middle class, the backbone of our democracy."

Although Hyland's recommendations were seemingly addressed to Bush, it is well known that Bush adamantly refuses to change any key aspects of domestic and economic policy in the way that Hyland and his circles are demanding. This leads toward the conclusion that Hyland's emergency programs could only be implemented by a different President.

LaRouche was right—again

If some sections of the establishment are now admitting that Bush is off his rocker, they are only echoing a charge

first leveled by Lyndon H. LaRouche, the Democratic presidential candidate now serving a 15-year jail term on charges trumped up by Bush and his pals.

Eighteen months ago, just after Bush ordered the invasion of Panama and when he was considered politically invulnerable, LaRouche issued a statement analyzing Bush as “a person of rage-driven obsessions, and impulses flowing from rage-driven obsessions.”

In November 1990, as Bush was moving toward war in the Mideast, LaRouche issued another statement warning that “There is no question that President George Bush is suffering a more acute form of implicitly schizophrenic paranoia than he showed during the height of the moments of uncertainty during the Panama atrocity by forces under his direction. The President, in short, is going nuts.”

In a move that will surely drive Bush closer to the brink, given his personal rage-obsession with LaRouche, the June 2 *Sunday New York Times* ran an item in its “Political Talk” column, quoting former Syracuse Mayor Lee Alexander, who is currently incarcerated with LaRouche in Rochester, Minnesota, describing LaRouche as follows: “The man’s a walking encyclopedia. He knows more facts and dates and places than anyone I’ve ever met.” Alexander cited as evidence the fact that LaRouche “told me two months ago that there was something going on with Bush, that he was overstressed. He seems to have known about this thyroid thing before anyone else did.”

Also calculated to drive Bush into a rug-chewing fit, is that fact that broccoli contains a natural counter to hyperthyroidism, since it was Bush’s nemesis, LaRouche, who launched the “Eat it, George” campaign after Bush threw an infantile tantrum last year and insisted he wouldn’t eat broccoli any more.

You can’t govern with Graves’ disease

While the White House has vehemently denied any link between Bush’s thyroid disorder and his policymaking, even though the President himself conceded at one point that it has caused a “slowing down on the mental processes,” the medical evidence overwhelmingly suggests otherwise. Dr. Lawrence K. Altman, medical expert for the *New York Times*, pointedly wrote recently that “most experts believe that people with hyperthyroidism do not make decisions as well as they would normally.”

According to Abigail Trafford, editor of the *Washington Post*’s health section and herself a victim of Graves’ disease, “What’s missing in all the upbeat press releases from the White House is the powerful emotional impact the disease has on many patients and the effects of hyperthyroidism on mood and behavior and judgment. And, while Graves’ is, indeed, curable, it can take months, sometimes years, for people to get their thyroid function back to normal.”

A leading Baltimore psychiatrist who is not politically hostile to Bush, believes that the President is suffering from

the full-fledged symptoms of Basedow’s disease. The difference in name is more than a technical quibble: Graves’ disease is the preferred term in the Anglo-American world because it is less associated with the symptoms of mental disturbance which are associated with Basedow’s disease. According to the Baltimore specialist, there is no use in testing the water of the White House, the Naval Observatory, Kennebunkport, and Camp David, since it is well established that Basedow’s disease is emotionally triggered. An emotional upheaval, psychic shock, or other trauma stimulates the pituitary gland into an overproduction of its hormone, which in turn provokes an overactivity of the thyroid, which speeds up overall metabolism and further exacerbates the emotional crisis. This pattern of overstimulation becomes a vicious cycle, which can become life-threatening if it is not treated. And precisely because Basedow’s disease is emotionally triggered, a sudden increase in emotional stress can result in a renewal of erratic behavior.

According to this expert, successful treatment of a person with Basedow’s disease requires that the patient not be operating in a stressful environment in which sensitive decisions of great consequence can become necessary without warning—not exactly a description of conditions at the Oval Office.

A Quayle regency?

Given Bush’s condition, it is not surprising that talk of the 25th Amendment, which provides for the removal of the President in the case of disability, and of a possible Quayle presidency, has surfaced. A U.S. establishment insider close to the Harriman and Bronfman factions of the Democratic Party, reported privately at the end of May that as a result of his health problems, “It’s possible Bush won’t last out his term. We might see Quayle in there, but I can assure you, that will be for four-to-six months at most, he’ll never be elected President. I know some options are in the works, but I can’t talk about them.” He advised: “Watch the Senator from Kansas,” i.e., Bob Dole, who was the leading challenger to Bush for the Republican presidential nomination in 1988.

It is hardly an accident that Quayle has suddenly started receiving a spate of puff pieces in the media, not just in the United States, but also in Britain, where many of the decisions regarding U.S. politics are made.

The implications of Bush’s nomination of Robert Strauss—the former chairman of the Democratic Party and official in the Carter regime—as ambassador to Moscow should not be ignored. The assessment of the Washington correspondent for the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera*, is on target. Strauss’s appointment is a “very important decision” that represents the strengthening and reinvigoration of the “permanent government” of the United States, that had, in previous eras, assured “continuity and a bipartisan consensus,” wrote R. Brancoli on June 5.

Hyperthyroidism often impairs mental ability

Dr. Abrams is a professor of radiology at Stanford University, a member in residence at the International Center for Security and Arms Control, and was a co-founder of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. He was interviewed on May 30, by Kathleen Klenetsky.

EIR: You were quoted in the *Washington Times* saying that Bush's thyroid problem may have caused him to ignore more temperate counsel when it came to the question of the Persian Gulf war. Could you elaborate on that?

Abrams: I did not suggest that hyperthyroidism led Mr. Bush to ignore that counsel. What I said was that it was conjectural, but that there are some things that we know about hyperthyroidism that are important, and that is that these are patients who are irritable, restless, overactive, and emotionally labile. Characteristically, they are described as lacking in concentration, and they have symptoms of anxiety, etc.

EIR: Do they exhibit obsessive behavior?

Abrams: Their impulsive behavior is something that has been described, and if you really go into the literature on it, cognitive impairment has been observed, and this really relates to concentration, memory—things of that sort. If you take it a step further, there are a bunch of psychiatric disorders that are associated with hyperthyroidism. . . .

What the [*Washington Times*] reporter asked me about was whether there was any possibility that hyperthyroidism in George Bush might be associated with a decision-making process of a particular kind. My response to that was that all elements of the metabolic state of the individual, at a particular time, that all of them can have an effect, particularly when there are cognitive changes.

All I said to him was that eight out of nine secretaries of defense, three Joint Chiefs of Staff chairmen, namely, Adm. William Crowe, Gen. David Jones, and Gen. Colin Powell, and Zbigniew Brzezinski and Paul Nitze, et al., had counseled that a non-military approach to the [Iraq-Kuwait] crisis had not been given an adequate chance, and that it needed more time. The congressional hearings [on the crisis last winter] had substantive evidence that the sanctions were

amazingly effective in terms of both exports and imports. So what I said was, these were counsels of a moderate course, and that they were a very influential and well-informed group, and that Bush made a decision which was in direct opposition to their counsel. But there is a time course here, which we don't know too much about. We don't know exactly when the onset of his hyperthyroidism was.

EIR: You mentioned that there are a number of psychiatric disorders linked to hyperthyroidism. What are they?

Abrams: There's a literature on patients who are hyperthyroid who actually develop schizophrenia. . . .

EIR: Should Bush consider stepping down if the treatment does not work, or if he becomes so underactive he can't carry out the functions of the presidency?

Abrams: Do you mean in terms of the 25th Amendment, or are you talking about 1992?

EIR: I'm talking about the 25th Amendment.

Abrams: I think the answer is no. He will probably respond. The judgment there, at least initially, would be with George Bush in concert with Burt Lee, his physician, and in particular, with Larry Mohr, the Executive physician to the White House. The question really as to whether or not it's interfering with Bush's capacity to handle the power and responsibilities of the presidency, is something that is a delicate question, and one that they would have to judge. My guess is, that at a time like this, where they are relatively optimistic about his response to the treatment, that that would not be an important consideration now.

EIR: How about in 1992?

Abrams: That would depend on what happens with the treatment. For example, the patient with hyperthyroidism who is treated, in the aftermath [of treatment] has intellectual impairment, but it is of a very modest degree. Sixty percent of patients exhibit some kind of intellectual impairment.

What you bring up is the real dilemma of the 25th Amendment, which happens to be a passion of mine. And that dilemma is: What is the definition of inability? In fact, I just sent in the copy-edited manuscript of a book on the Reagan assassination attempt, which deals with the 25th in particular. W. W. Norton will publish that in early November.

EIR: In terms of the time of onset of Bush's hyperthyroidism, the White House estimates it to have been some time in February. Given his symptoms, is it possible that he got the disease much earlier?

Abrams: It's possible. One thing which is of importance, is the question of whether stress has anything to do with the onset of the disease. It's an autoimmune disorder, and one could raise the question as to whether or not one's resistance might be lowered. . . . You know, someone has raised the



Stuart Lewis

President Bush landing at the White House on Aug. 14, 1990, during the phase of the Gulf crisis when the decision was taken to go to war.

question very seriously whether Bush's choice of Dan Quayle as Vice President was not an impulsive act. I myself think it was a precipitate action.

The other thing about this is that George Bush may have been born to make the decisions that he did; his personality is of a particular type. We had a meeting at George Washington University in December on the care and treatment of the VIP, and a lot of it dealt with disability in leadership. One session was devoted to the media, and Jack Nelson [of the *Los Angeles Times*] took pains to point out that a quarter of a million miles of travel in two years is an extraordinary amount of time away from Washington, of change in time zones, activity, if you will, and maybe that's just George Bush. And maybe it isn't.

So I think the interesting thing will be, when he becomes euthyroid—that is to say, when the radioiodine has ablated those cells that are overproducing the thyroxin—what is his personality going to be like? What is his activity level going to be like? Is he going to be keeping those guys jogging along every single day, or not? You know, that's a question we'll all be fascinated to follow.

EIR: Can hyperthyroidism be triggered by purely psychosomatic circumstances?

Abrams: There are other factors that can be involved: the presence of an infection, certain drugs, and an increase in the consumption of iodine-containing foods. Most of the time, one never knows what is the precipitating factor.

EIR: Is it a credible theory that the water supply at the Vice President's residence may have been tainted, and that Bush and his wife got it from that?

Abrams: I think it's very doubtful. I think they're going to find that the water is pretty good. I think it is very interesting to speculate that a man, his wife, and their dog all in one locale have an autoimmune disorder, but it doesn't lead you any closer to getting at what the cause is.

EIR: I take it you were opposed to the war on Iraq?

Abrams: I felt very strongly that a non-military approach to that kind of conflict was the rational one to follow, and that I would have hoped that the country would have followed it.

Opposition rises to Bush's 'new order'

by Patricia Salisbury

Constituent groups ranging from a national meeting of black trade unionists to a branch of the Catholic fraternal organization, the Knights of Columbus, are surfacing strong opposition to elements of George Bush's genocidal new world order. In several instances, leaders of the opposition are openly associating themselves with the policies of jailed U.S. statesman Lyndon LaRouche, who has announced his campaign to become U.S. President.

The most dramatic and thoroughgoing opposition surfaced at the Memorial Day 20th annual convention of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) in Chicago. Debate was passionate, and at times pitted delegates against the organization's leadership. In the course of the three-day conference, a number of speakers, including president William Lucy of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, U.S. Rep. Barbara Rose Collins (D-Mich.), and Dr. Julianne Malveau, syndicated columnist of the San Francisco *Sun Reporter*, had spoken eloquently against the Bush administration initiation and conduct in the Persian Gulf war.

"Bush kept changing his reasons for the war. How could he say it was for democracy when the Saudi and Kuwaiti royal families are holding slaves. Why are we allying with the biggest exploiters of human beings in the Middle East?" Lucy asked rhetorically to the thunderous applause of the 1,000 delegates in attendance.

Said Congresswoman Collins, "It's a sad and tragic day in U.S. history when we start rounding off the number of deaths of innocent civilians in Iraq by the 50 thousands; was it 150,000 innocent killed, 200,000 innocent killed? I think Bush is going to drag out these sick and disgusting 'patriotic' parades until November 1992 if we let him get away with it."

Israel must comply with U.N.

When a resolution came up calling for the end to sanctions against Iraq and full compliance by Israel with all U.N. resolutions, a delegate from Illinois proposed a friendly amendment calling for the cutoff of all funds to Israel until such time as Israel complies with the resolutions. Near-pandemonium broke out when, after the authors of the original resolution accepted the amendment as friendly, the chair attempted to rule the amendment as being unrelated and therefore out of order. Strong speeches by Leo Robinson of the Northern California chapter, and Leroy Hodge of the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania chapter, pointed out that the issue of sanctions was

a moral issue and not a pragmatic matter, and that those intimidated by phony charges of anti-Semitism cannot be permitted to stand in the way of truth.

Courageously, these delegates quoted directly from publications associated with Lyndon LaRouche to document charges that Bush is planning further genocidal wars, with an adventure in Cuba possibly on the agenda. Publications reflecting LaRouche's policy perspectives circulated through the delegations despite efforts by the chair to bar access to LaRouche associates. While CBTU president Lucy came down from the podium to the floor microphone to beg the delegates to not pass the amendment, it passed with about 80% in favor, with only those closest to the organization bureaucracy in opposition.

Move to stop Free Trade Agreement

Delegates also strengthened what would have been *pro forma* resolutions opposing Bush's North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), after LaRouche representatives present at the conference urged the necessity of defeating NAFTA despite the recent House and Senate passage of the fast track negotiating procedure, and of exposing the AFL-CIO sellout on the issue. When weak resolutions were proposed, Kenneth Jones of the St. Louis delegation rose with a "friendly amendment" which called upon the AFL-CIO to immediately convene a conference of all trade unions of Canada, the U.S., and Mexico, to discuss and coordinate a strategy for defeating the free trade agreement Bush will negotiate. Jones's proposal drew support as delegates came to the microphone to give testament to why the fight against this slave trade agreement *cannot* be abandoned. Again, an agent of the chair tried to obfuscate the issue by raising technical questions concerning the proposed conference, but this maneuver failed and the resolution and the amendment passed unanimously.

Similar challenges to Bush's policies are under way in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Knights of Columbus. A May 25 meeting of the Philadelphia NAACP unanimously passed a resolution condemning free trade and NAFTA, and the resolution will be raised by NAACP activist O.G. Christian at the July NAACP national convention in Houston as an emergency resolution.

In Philadelphia, a prominent Catholic activist and member of the Knights of Columbus, has issued a statement backing the Committee to Save the Children in Iraq, an organization initiated by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the wife of Lyndon LaRouche. In a letter to Catholic publications, William J. McCartney, District Deputy of Pennsylvania District 37 of the Knights of Columbus, urges all Catholics to act with the Committee to Save the Children in Iraq in the spirit of Pope John Paul II's new encyclical, *Centesimus Annus*, and to examine the contributions of Lyndon and Helga LaRouche in developing a science of economics in accordance with papal teaching.

Thornburgh runs for Senate; aides jailed

by Jeffrey Steinberg and Steve Komm

On June 5, just one week after two former top aides received federal prison sentences on cocaine convictions, Attorney General Richard Thornburgh announced that he would leave the Bush administration in late July to run for the U.S. Senate from Pennsylvania. Thornburgh is virtually assured the Republican Party nomination for the Nov. 5 special election to fill the seat left vacant when John Heinz III died in a plane crash in April.

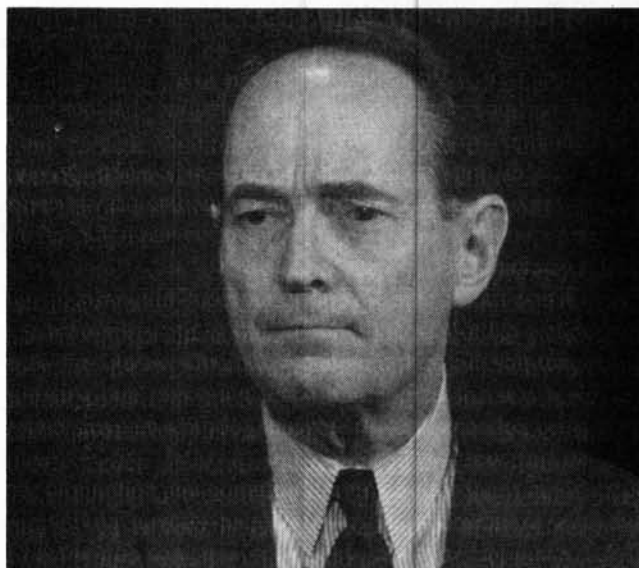
The attorney general, whose ties to a white collar cocaine ring in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania have made him a major liability for the Bush administration, had been urged by both the White House and leading Senate Republicans to leave the Justice Department post to seek the vacant Senate seat, as part of the GOP's effort to recapture some lost ground in the Congress during the 1992 elections. Thornburgh waited nearly two months to announce his decision, in order to clear the decks of some of the scandals that could upset his prospects for winning the November special election.

Drugs and perjury

Among the most egregious of those scandals was the involvement of some of his closest aides in a widespread cocaine ring servicing State House officials, during his two terms as governor of Pennsylvania (1979-87).

On May 30, the U.S. District judge in Scranton sentenced Henry Barr, Thornburgh's former general counsel and executive assistant, to 16 months in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Barr was convicted in a jury trial in February of cocaine use and perjury. Thornburgh testified at that trial and denied that he had any knowledge that his aide was a cocaine user or that Barr had lied to FBI agents conducting security clearance checks. Sources in Pennsylvania have told *EIR* that as early as 1982, Thornburgh had called Barr and a second top aide, Ronald Stern, onto the carpet for their indiscreet drug use while serving as cabinet aides in the State House. If those reports are substantiated, the Barr trial testimony could come back to haunt the outgoing attorney general.

Several days after the Barr sentencing, another former top Thornburgh aide, Richard Guida, was sentenced to 11 months in federal prison for cocaine trafficking. Guida was the deputy state attorney general and chief criminal prosecutor of Pennsylvania during Thornburgh's governorship. According to an April 16 broadcast of "A Current Affair," a television "magazine" show, Guida, while in the Thornburgh



Stepping down: Attorney General Richard Thornburgh.

administration, purchased a pound of pure cocaine from a Harrisburg narcotics trafficker and paid \$15,000 in cash. To avoid a 100-count cocaine-trafficking indictment, Guida "plea bargained" with federal prosecutors, and instead was charged with one count of cocaine distribution.

Among the other scandals that are expected to be aired during the special election campaign, are a series of financial kickbacks involving Thornburgh and top aides, which could also intersect illegal funding of the Nicaraguan Contras and financial links between Thornburgh and New York organized crime families. One of the highlights of these scandals is Thornburgh's close ties to former New York gubernatorial candidate and pharmaceutical magnate Lew Lehrman. Lehrman's political action committee, Citizens for America, has been implicated in questionable financial activities involving the Contras and other "Project Democracy"-backed insurgency movements.

According to reports published in the *Washington Post* on June 6, congressional Democrats are up in arms over the Thornburgh decision to stay on as attorney general until late July, when the Pennsylvania GOP will hold a convention to nominate him for the Senate seat. The Pennsylvania Democrats have already nominated Harris Woford as their candidate. Under Federal Election Commission guidelines, Thornburgh can technically raise funds for his primary election campaign until the August convention, and can then raise funds from the same contributors for the general election. Woford, already the Democratic nominee, cannot raise primary election funds.

President Bush reportedly wants Thornburgh in the attorney general post for the next two months, so that he can lead the campaign to pass the administration's anti-crime package, which would greatly increase the number of federal crimes for which the death penalty can be imposed.

Man fights hospital's duty-to-die policy

by Linda Everett

Last December, a Minnesota county government sought to create a duty-to-die precedent by authorizing a public hospital to sue for the "right" to kill a patient against the explicit wishes of herself and her family. As the first step of instituting the medical equivalent of judicial fascism, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners authorized the Hennepin County Medical Center to petition the court to have Oliver Wanglie removed as the legal guardian to his severely brain-damaged wife of 53 years, and appoint someone more amenable to the aim of removing Mrs. Helga Wanglie's life-support.

At the May 30-31 hearing before Probate Court Judge Patricia L. Lebois in Minneapolis, Oliver Wanglie, 87, related from memory his wife's medical history. Mrs. Wanglie, 87, entered Hennepin County Medical Center with a fractured hip in late 1989. For five months she was conscious, but used a ventilator because of breathing difficulties. Doctors insisted she be moved to Bethesda Hospital, a long-term care center in St. Paul where, despite the fact she was a difficult respiratory patient, her ventilator was removed. She was found unconscious and rushed to yet another facility, because Bethesda lacked the capability to revive her. Mr. Wanglie told *EIR* he was never informed the ventilator would be removed, and would not have allowed that or his wife's transfer to Bethesda had he known it lacked an intensive care unit. By the time she was resuscitated, Mrs. Wanglie sustained severe brain damage. Once she was returned to Hennepin County, doctors threatened to remove her ventilator, because, they said, treating her (keeping her alive) was "futile care" and "not in the patient's interests." The Wanglie family adamantly refused.

Mr. Wanglie told the court that when doctors demanded that his wife's ventilator be removed, he told them that "there are thousands of doctors killing babies in the womb at the beginning of life, and some were killing people at the end of life like Hitler did to the elderly. History teaches a nation without a high moral standard has crumbled to dust." He would never, he told the court, remove his wife's ventilator—even with a court order. Helga Wanglie, he said, was a devout Lutheran who said she "wanted to stay here until the Lord called her."

While Oliver Wanglie, an attorney licensed to practice law in three states, nailed the hospital's actions as on a par

with Nazi medical precedent, hospital doctors tried to portray him as "senile," always "off on tangents," and unable to focus on his wife's condition. Mr. Wanglie says that like his wife, he believes that "only He Who gave life has the right to take life."

Such convictions are under attack, because they could thwart attempts by malthusians to create a duty-to-die precedent, by using Mrs. Wanglie's case to get court approval of a doctor's right to end any alleged costly, "futile" care that keeps alive those whose lives "are not worth living." The Euthanasia Education Council (now the Society for the Right to Die) wrote a letter to the editor of the *New York Times* ostensibly to support anyone's wish to live, as does Mrs. Wanglie—or to die. The letter argued that these costly "burdens" to taxpayers have no right to care when Medicare is reducing treatment for patients who could fully recover.

State budget-cutters are attempting broader living will laws that target patients with severe brain damage who are labeled comatose, "permanently unconscious," or in a "persistent vegetative state." Still others, like Daniel Wikler, professor of medical ethics at the University of Wisconsin Medical School, want us to think of these patients as "dead." Wikler suggests that states change their declaration of death or brain death laws—which people had to be brainwashed to accept—to include all patients dumped into these new categories.

No right to 'inappropriate' care

It is not surprising that Steven H. Miles, ethics consultant to Hennepin County Medical Center, testified that patients like Mrs. Wanglie don't have the right to what he calls "inappropriate" medical care. Miles's mentor is reported to be the pro-death neurologist Ronald Cranford, also at Hennepin County Medical Center, who wants the courts to determine if people labeled "permanently unconscious," as is Mrs. Wanglie, should be considered "persons." If these people are not conscious, says Cranford, they lack personhood, a prime requisite for constitutional and civil rights. As "non-persons," he suggests, killing them may not be murder.

On cue, medical ethicists raised the alarm over the loss of Mrs. Wanglie's "autonomy" to make choices. Then, although Mrs. Wanglie's medical bills are covered by Medicare and a private health maintenance organization, ethicists all over the country, as apologists for cost-cutters, wondered aloud to the national media whether the nation can afford to indulge in keeping the elderly alive while denying resources to children. "We're not proposing rationing beneficial care," says Art Caplan, director of the Center for Biomedical Ethics—only care that keeps patients like Mrs. Wanglie alive.

What is really on trial is the right to believe in the sanctity of human life, the right to the medical care that sustains that life, and the right to society's protection of it. Judge Lebois is expected to rule whether Mr. Wanglie has that right, as his wife's legal guardian, within weeks.

Supreme Court decides Sixth Amendment dead

by Leo F. Scanlon

The Supreme Court ruling in the case of *Mu'Min v. Virginia* has breached the Sixth Amendment guarantee of a fair trial "by an impartial jury," and given a green light to the tyrannical use of the news media to railroad a conviction by poisoning the jury. The ruling marks another step in this Court's campaign to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Bill of Rights by destroying it. It even prompted Justice William Kennedy, usually in the majority in such cases, to dissent. Justice Thurgood Marshall stated flatly that the ruling "turns a critical constitutional guarantee . . . into a hollow formality."

The ruling followed the pattern of this Court of utilizing death penalty cases to execute the Constitution as well as the convict. Dawud Mu'Min was a prisoner in a Virginia penitentiary, serving time for a murder he committed in 1973, when he evaded the lax security measures on a work detail, and raped, robbed, and brutally murdered a local store owner.

The incident occurred at the height of the national controversy in the case of Willie Horton, and intersected a heated local political race which focused on complaints about prison administration. Pre-trial publicity was massive and continuous up to the trial, and included widespread publication of a confession which Mu'Min made to authorities. In addition, Mu'Min's past record of convictions and trouble in prison was well publicized.

The issue was not simply whether the jury had been exposed to inflammatory and prejudicial coverage—the trial judge presumed that every juror knew the details of the case. In fact, 8 of the 12 jurors who sentenced Mu'Min to death admitted exposure to the coverage, and one of them was an acquaintance of the victim. Nor is there much indication that any jury would have failed to convict Mu'Min of the crime. It is these very circumstances which make the subsequent actions of the trial judge, and the Supreme Court's affirmation of them, so dangerous.

Despite the defense attorney's request for individual *voir dire*, the judge simply asked groups of jurors if they could "be impartial." No one admitted to prejudice—a not surprising reaction, and one which is recognized in the virtual entirety of the case law dealing with the *voir dire* process (whereby a juror's bias may be ascertained and judged). Justice Kennedy's dissent points out that "findings of impartiality must be based on something more than the mere silence of the individual in response to questions asked *en masse*."

Justice Marshall points out that a juror can be impartial even if he has been exposed to certain types of publicity, but that is a matter for the trial judge to determine, based on substantive questioning of the jurors. It is axiomatic that an individual is unlikely to recognize his own prejudice, and certain types of publicity have been recognized to taint even the most fair-minded persons. This case demanded that the court set standards for this process, and the majority—rejecting a long line of cases leading to this point—refused.

Constitution 'burdens' government

Worse, the court once again asserted that constitutional protections are superseded by the interests of the state. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor argued that a truly fair examination of the jurors would be an "administrative burden on the court." This contempt for the rights of American citizens is expressed in this Court's repeated battering of the Fourth and Sixth amendment protections, and is coherent with the Department of Justice's (DoJ) plan for destroying the Bill of Rights.

That scheme is articulated by the DoJ Office of Legal Policy in a series of monographs entitled "Truth in Criminal Justice." These papers are indebted to Jeremy Bentham, a leading opponent of the American Constitution, and reject the idea that a criminal trial must not only ascertain the facts of a case, but must judge the *mens rea* or mental state of the individual accused of the crime. It is the trial judge, not the potential juror, who presumably possesses the experience and judgment necessary to determine if a jury is tainted.

Apologists for the DoJ argue that this and all other protections which shield the citizen from tyrannical actions by the state, are simply a boon to criminals.

Justice Marshall points out that this sophistry finds no support in the rules currently followed by those U.S. courts which have not sunk to the level of the State of Virginia. He says: "Numerous Federal Circuits and States have adopted the sorts of procedures for screening juror bias that the majority disparages as being excessively intrusive. Additionally, two other States guarantee criminal defendants sequestered *voir dire* as a matter of right in all capital cases. . . . In short, the majority's anxiety is difficult to credit in the light of the number of jurisdictions that have concluded that meaningful steps can be taken to insulate the proceedings from juror bias."

These standards, enacted by state legislatures and honest courts, are not threatened by this ruling, and should be jealously protected. As Marshall indicates, this ruling has nothing to do with "fighting crime," but rather is aimed at sanctifying the type of political frame-ups for which Virginia is notorious. As with the show trials conducted against Lyndon LaRouche and his associates, it is precisely the pre-trial events, and especially the media coverage of flamboyant actions by the prosecutors, which make a sham of the jury trial system.

Full House committee kills space station

The House Appropriations Committee voted on June 3 to kill Space Station Freedom, a move which faces a veto threat from President Bush. The full committee action followed a 6-3 vote in the HUD and Independent Agencies Subcommittee to kill the space station on May 16.

The committee held no separate vote on the space station, but simply omitted the funds from a measure which provided \$80.9 billion for the nation's space, housing, and veterans programs in fiscal 1992, and approved the bill on a voice vote.

But the real fight is expected on June 6 when the bill is scheduled to come before the full House. Concern over the cut in funds prompted hearings with NASA Administrator Richard Truly, which were held on June 3. Support for the space station has been forthcoming from both Democrats and Republicans, and from Europe and Japan.

In comments in the House on June 3, Rep. Mary Rose Oaker (D-Ohio) supported the space station. "Through the years we have seen so many advances," said Oaker. "I think they are advances that the American people and indeed perhaps some people in Congress are not aware of. They are not aware of what space exploration has meant to our country and to the world. There is not one area, I do not think, that we live in, one type of area that relates to our quality of life that does not relate to some spin-off from the space program, from the clothes that we wear, the insulation of our homes."

Oaker listed developments in laser surgery, nuclear medicine, and the purification of medicines and pharmaceuticals in space, which were contingent on the success of the space program.

Science, Space, and Technology Committee Chairman Rep. George Brown (D-Calif.) noted that the "NASA program would be mortally struck by the ending of the space station" and that the "space station accounts for more than half of our government investments in civilian R&D."

Rep. Bill Lowery (R-Calif.) and Rep. Jim Chapman (D-Tex.) will offer an amendment which would restore most of the \$2 billion for the station.

House Democrats push genocidal population bill

Sen. Tim Wirth (D-Colo.), an anti-nuclear and environmentalism advocate, introduced a bill into the U.S. Senate on May 24 which would, in his words, make the United States the "world leader in terms of population planning and population programs." Praising the work of former Rep. George Bush (R-Tex.), who spent most of his four years in Congress promoting population control, Wirth complained that the world was "backsliding" in its efforts to impose population control and called for "aggressive" population programs.

The measure is cosponsored by Sens. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.), Robert Kerrey (D-Neb.), John Kerry (D-Mass.), Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), Quentin Burdick (D-N.D.), and Brock Adams (D-Wash.).

One of the key targets of the bill is Africa, where, the bill complains, "fertility is highest and contraception use lowest." The bill states that it should be the principal objective of U.S. foreign policy to "achieve universal availability of high quality fertility control services" in order to "reduce population growth and stabilize

world population at the lowest level feasible and thereby protect the global environment."

The bill calls for an increase of population control funds targeting especially "countries which account for a substantial proportion of the world's annual population increment," which "have significant unmet needs for fertility control," and "which demonstrate a strong policy commitment to population stabilization through the expansion of reproductive choice."

The bill also calls for a reorganization of the Department of State to better deal with the "increasing importance to United States interests in the post-Cold War era of the interrelated issues of global population growth, environmental degradation, and natural resources management."

Bush banking reform may hit a snag

Although the banking deregulation legislation proposed by the Bush administration was passed by the House Banking Subcommittee on Financial Institutions, it still faces rough going.

House Banking Chairman Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex.), an opponent of banking deregulation, has expressed grave doubts about the bill. Gonzalez was personally slighted by being excluded from a meeting in early June between eight Democrats on his committee and Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady on the bill. "Things are going to get much hotter in the full committee," commented Gonzalez. "They always do."

The bill must also go through the Energy and Commerce Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee. The chairman of Energy and Commerce, Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.) has been a longstanding oppo-

nent of repealing the Glass-Steagall Act, which prevents investment banks from merging with commercial banks. The Bush-backed bill would in effect nullify Glass-Steagall. Dingell has also complained that the Treasury Department has attempted to keep him out of the legislative process.

MFN status for China faces uphill fight

President Bush's announcement on May 15 that he was proceeding to extend Most Favored Nation status for the People's Republic of China, has met serious opposition in the House and Senate, and Bush may be forced to seek some compromise, such as a temporary six month MFN extension. MFN trading status grants to the recipient country the lowest possible tariffs on the import of their goods.

While opposition to MFN is mainly for domestic political purposes, sizable majorities oppose renewing MFN status until China eases various forms of political and religious repression which followed in the wake of the Tiananmen Square massacre in June 1989.

One amendment introduced by Rep. Donald Pease (D-Ohio) would require the President to certify that China accounted for all protesters arrested at Tiananmen Square, released all religious prisoners, expanded freedom of the press, and ceased harassment of Chinese students in the United States. "My intentions," said Pease to the *Washington Times*, "is not to cut off MFN, but rather use leverage to improve human rights conditions."

In hearings on May 29, Chinese dissident astrophysicist Fang Lizhi recommended against MFN status. On May 16, Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (D-Me.) warned that

there would not be any MFN status for China unless and until the President could give the country a seal of approval for China on human rights and arms proliferation, and he has introduced an amendment to this effect. Mitchell feels that he is close to securing a veto-proof majority for the bill in the face of a presidential veto of conditions attached to MFN.

Congressman says NED 'borders on fascist'

Rep. Paul Kanjorski (D-Pa.) attacked the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) in comments on the House floor on May 15. The NED is the congressionally mandated part of the "Project Democracy" apparatus exposed during the Iran-Contra scandal as a "parallel, secret government."

Kanjorski said that he would like to do away with the NED, but barring support for that in the House, he called for an investigation into its activities. "I have a fundamental disagreement with setting up a private organization, controlled by private people, to carry out the foreign policy of the United States," said Kanjorski. "I think it is fundamentally wrong and that it violates the framers' intent of the Constitution of the United States."

Kanjorski referred to a discussion he had with leaders of an opposition party in Romania who had been promised \$92,000 in aid from the NED, but had never received the money. They had been given a \$400 computer and required to sign for a \$25,000 computer. The Romanians said, Kanjorski reported, "What you are doing is funding the government that is in power. The parties that receive NED money are really not in opposition. They exist in order to destroy the real opposition party that exists in Romania."

Kanjorski said he had filed a Freedom of Information Act request on the NED without getting firm answers. He said he later found out that members of his staff had been identified in an NED internal memo, in which the NED tried to set a part of his constituency against him. "Now, I would suggest," said Kanjorski, "that we have an organization here that not only is not democratic, but in some respects is bordering on being fascist, if that is the approach they take to proper inquiries made by a Representative of the American people."

Bush itching for a fight on civil rights

President Bush repeated his threats on June 2 to veto the proposed Civil Rights Act of 1991, arguing that the bill imposes quotas on employers. Speaking to the National Federation of Independent Business, Bush was so enraged that he began pounding the lectern, accusing the Democrats, who support the bill, of playing a "politics of selective inclusion and exclusion." The administration had earlier intervened to sabotage discussion between civil rights leaders and the Business Roundtable, at which the two groups were about to reach a compromise.

Civil rights leaders charge the President with attempting to inflame white voters by labeling the bill a "quota bill."

Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) labeled an earlier attack made by Bush on the bill during a West Point commencement address at the end of May "the most divisive and demagogic one that any President has made on civil rights in modern times. . . . If this speech is not a reminder of the days of Bull Connor and George Wallace, what is?"

National News

Defense Science Board attacks Bush policies

The Defense Science Board, in a series of reports which the Department of Defense (DoD) has so far refused to release, attacks the Bush administration's defense and industrial policies, *Washington Technology* reports. The magazine states that industry and government officials familiar with the four reports say DoD officials intend to quash them.

According to *Washington Technology*, the reports emphasize the importance of DoD support of the development of dual-use technologies, which have both military and civilian applications. These programs help both the military and economy, the Board states, and should be co-funded with other government agencies and industry. One year ago, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency head Craig Fields was forced out of his position for promoting such dual-use funding.

Billington files Virginia appeal

Attorneys for Michael Billington, an associate of Lyndon LaRouche convicted on concocted "securities fraud" violations in Virginia, filed an appeal with the Virginia Court of Appeals May 29, addressing eight grounds on which that court should dismiss the indictments and pending 77-year sentence against him.

Three of the issues addressed in the appeal go to the violation of Virginia's double jeopardy statute and violations of both state and federal constitutional protections against double jeopardy.

The February 1987 Virginia indictments were the third in a series of cases naming Billington as a defendant, following federal investigations in Boston and Alexandria. All three relied on the same body of evidence to prove an alleged nationwide conspiracy to defraud lenders by Lyndon

LaRouche and his associates. Virginia, which was fully aware of and involved in the preceding federal prosecutorial efforts, tried to circumvent the double jeopardy statute by charging criminal violations of "securities" statutes, rather than the fraud charges brought by the federal authorities. At trial, the Commonwealth relied on the specific "acts" of mail and wire fraud for which Billington was convicted and sentenced to three years in federal prison in Alexandria.

The appeal also focuses on the trial court's refusal to charge the jury that the Commonwealth had to prove that Billington knew that the political loans he solicited were "securities." The State Corporation Commission did not decide that issue until after he was indicted.

High Court bans funds to promote abortion

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 on May 23 that since the federal government may favor childbirth over abortion, it may also prohibit the use of federal funds to promote abortion in any way. The ruling comes after years of litigation of the Reagan administration rule that federal monies to family clinics cannot be used to advise women about abortion nor refer pregnant women to abortion clinics.

Planned Parenthood, by far the biggest abortionists in the country and worldwide, as well as the major recipient of federal family planning funds, brought the Supreme Court case. The group said they would have to refuse federal funds.

According to media reports, Chief Justice William Rehnquist wrote that it was not the decision that impinged on the patient-doctor relationship since these clinics do not provide the full range of medical services, only a few. Nor did the decision deny a poor woman's access to abortion, since one could find out about and acquire an abortion from a private physician. Rather, he wrote, it was the poor women's indigence that denied their access to abortions via private physicians.

The dissent, written by Justice Blackmun, stated that the Court was, in effect,

nullifying *Roe v. Wade* (the 1973 Supreme Court ruling legalizing abortion on demand) via the back door, and making doctors propagandists for the anti-abortionists. Since *Roe v. Wade* was passed, about 28.5 million fetuses have been terminated in the U.S.

No pattern of defense fraud, Hudson admits

Henry Hudson, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, admitted that his three-year investigation into defense acquisition fraud, conducted under the operation code-name "Ill Wind," has demonstrated the absence of widespread corruption, *Aviation Week* magazine reports.

Hudson began the investigation with what many considered a high-publicity media stunt—a virtual police raid carried out against the Pentagon. "Ill Wind" apparently included 38 wiretaps, six microphone implants, 44 search warrants, millions of subpoenaed documents, and hundreds of interviews, according to the magazine. The last few indictments are expected within a few weeks.

Hudson told the National Aviation Club in mid-May, "Folks, it is just not there. There are pockets of irregularity. . . . But it is not deep or widespread."

Maryland eugenics law attacked by columnist

Syndicated columnist Nat Hentoff pointed out in a late May column that Maryland has passed a law which codifies the *Roe v. Wade* standards governing abortion, but adds an explicitly eugenicist twist which "will gladden the hearts of eugenicists, who are considerable in number—though many are still in the closet."

He points out that "the section on Abortion (Restrictions) Procedures declares that the state is not permitted to interfere—at any stage—in a woman's decision to terminate a pregnancy if 'the fetus is affected by genetic

defect or serious deformity or abnormality.'

"This means that a viable fetus can be destroyed if he or she has *any* genetic defect. Although the qualifier, 'serious' precedes 'deformity or abnormality,' there is no such restriction on performing an abortion because of 'genetic defect.'"

He points out that the burgeoning field of genetics research is identifying increasingly spurious connections between certain gene patterns and specific abnormalities. Hentoff notes that the Maryland law would make it legal for a woman to abort a fetus if it were determined that the baby had myopia, or any number of "undesirable" traits.

The abortion movement is openly hostile to advocates of the rights of the disabled, who have been warning that such eugenic thinking is contrary to all the gains made by the disabled in recent years. Hentoff adds that the triumph of eugenics (startling to observers at the time) against "defectives" in German hospitals, opened the way to the Nazi concentration camps a few years later.

Dioxin is harmless, and may help combat cancers

Dr. Vernon N. Houk, a director of the federal Center for Environmental and Injury Control at the Atlanta Centers for Disease Control, told an international environmental health conference in St. Louis May 21 that the 1982 decision to evacuate 2,200 residents of Times Beach, Missouri, a southwest suburb of St. Louis where minute traces of dioxin were found, was a mistake, the May 26 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reported.

EIR had warned that the alleged dangers of dioxin were a hoax designed to justify the police powers of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and as a part of the attack on the use of herbicides in agriculture.

Houk said that if dioxin is a carcinogen, "it is in my view a weak one that is associated only with high-dose exposures." Two other researchers at the conference said that no lingering illnesses have been found in people exposed to dioxin at Seveso, Italy, or Times Beach.

Armon Yanders, head of the Environmental Trace Substances Research Center at the University of Missouri, reported that "\$100,000 a day has been spent over the last 30 years researching this single material . . . and we still don't have all the answers," but dioxin may actually be useful in fighting some cancers, including human breast cancer. "Perhaps dioxin will have some useful application after all . . . other than keeping lawyers engaged," he said.

Queen Elizabeth not welcomed in Texas

Queen Elizabeth II and her consort Prince Philip met protests at each stop of their recent tour in Texas. Despite statements from the royal entourage about the "wonderful" reception they received, the word is out that "some Texans are rude," according to an anonymous spokesman quoted on a Houston radio show.

Over 150 demonstrators, including black officials, protested the Queen's visit in Dallas. A photograph of County Commissioner John Wiley Price holding a sign which read, "Where did the Queen get her money? Slavery, Opium, and Genocide," appeared in the *Dallas Times Herald*.

In Houston, the Queen was booed by crowds, which was noted in the newspapers. A large picture of the royal couple on the front page of the *Houston Chronicle* being greeted by Houston Mayor Whitmire, shows them with red, demonic eyes, clearly not a picture which would have been chosen by Buckingham Palace. Republican state representative Harvey Hilderbran from Uvalde, upset over the hoopla surrounding the visit, said, "I thought we fought a revolution so we didn't have to put up with that royalty stuff."

Even the press carried commentaries hostile to the Queen. Syndicated columnist Donald Kaul in the May 21 *Houston Chronicle*, blasted the royal family, "down to the last parasite," for their high living. *Houston Post* columnist Lyn Ashby reviewed the long history of hostile relations between Britain and Texas.

● **DAN QUAYLE** received a letter sent May 21 from European Space Agency director Jean-Marie Lutton, which strongly urged that the U.S. fully fund Space Station Freedom, despite elimination of its funding by a House committee. Japanese Foreign Minister Nakayama sent a similar letter to Secretary of State James Baker.

● **U.S. BISHOPS** were called to Rome by Pope John Paul II May 27-28 for discussion of their draft pastoral letter on the role of women in the Church. Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk of Cincinnati will lead the American delegation.

● **GEORGE W. BUSH**, President Bush's eldest son, is involved in a business deal in the Persian Gulf with William H. Quasha, a Manila attorney who represented the Philippine branch of the Nugan Hand Bank, the CIA proprietary that collapsed in 1980 amid charges that it was involved in the heroin trade and drug money laundering.

● **JOHN GARAMENDI**, California State Insurance Commissioner, told a House subcommittee May 22 that in "elemental fairness, the IRS should move to the back of the line," to collect \$643 million in back taxes from the failed Executive Life Insurance company of California.

● **ENVIRONMENTAL** Protection Agency prosecutions increased 133% in 1990 over the previous year, penalties paid by "polluters" increased by 74% over last year to \$61.3 million, and 55 individual and corporate defendants were convicted and sentenced to jail.

● **FEDERAL JUDGES** are threatening to quit to protest mandatory sentencing, according to William Schwarzer, head of a research agency for the federal judiciary. Such laws have increased the power of prosecutors and relegated judges to "umpires."

Editorial

A grave disease

That President Bush is suffering from Graves' disease is a matter of concern to all who have been horrified at the sheer craziness and brutality of American policy. This is most starkly apparent in the refusal of Bush to permit the lifting of sanctions against Iraq, even though hundreds of thousands of children now face death from malnutrition and disease. This brutality has been an ostentatious feature of U.S. government conduct since at least the invasion of Panama.

The obsessive rage shown by the President against Saddam Hussein and Manuel Noriega, fits the profile of Graves' disease. Indeed, some medical experts believe that the disease itself not only renders its victims irascible, unstable, and unable to concentrate, but that it is precipitated by psychological causes in individuals who are unable to withstand stress. The symptoms of the disease may be so extreme as to render its victim literally psychotic. Further, an overactive thyroid is only symptomatic of the condition, since it is the pituitary gland which is primarily affected, and therefore a wide range of bodily functions are affected as well.

Bush's behavior, even on the personal level, appears to conform to the profile of the disease, to give the picture of a man governed by fits of uncontrollable rage. His wife, in two interviews with *People* magazine, intimated that he attacked her physically, in remarks which might have been intended to be humorous but, then again, might be literally true. In an interview in the Oct. 1, 1990 issue, Mrs. Bush bragged about her campaign to become physically fit. She said, "Don't argue with me, because I could throw you right over my shoulder. Nobody takes me on *now*" (emphasis in the original).

Then, right before the opening of hostilities in Iraq, in the Dec. 17, 1990 issue, the following two interchanges between Mrs. Bush and the interviewer were reported. First the question: "Mrs. Bush, something happened this year that maybe you anticipated, but Millie [their dog] may not have: Her book is selling like hotcakes."

Mrs. Bush's answer is shocking in light of what we now know about the President's ailment. She said:

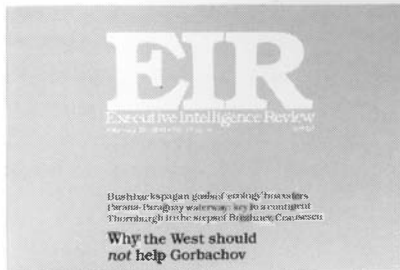
"Absolutely the biggest surprise of the year. Nobody kicks Millie anymore. Do we, Mil-Mil?" It should be recollected that Mrs. Bush too has the same disease, and presumably has also to contend with her own irascibility.

Later in the interview, Mr. Bush was asked how he deals with stress, and he answered: "Well, I have this dog named Ranger and a wife named Barbara and a couple of grandchildren." Mrs. Bush then interjected, "Thought you were gonna say, 'I kick the dog, kick the wife.'"

The President's mental and physical health raises questions as to whether he is fit to continue to serve out the remainder of his present term. Whether or not George Bush abuses his wife and pets, he certainly has abused the peoples of Panama and Iraq, and he has not done this in secret. Perhaps an even more serious question to be asked than those relating to the President's condition, is the condition of the American population, which has not only tolerated President Bush but actively applauded him.

As early as Dec. 20, 1989, Lyndon LaRouche warned from his prison cell that there was something dangerously amok in the White House. LaRouche said then: "George is a very shallow-minded person, very impulsive. He's a person of rage-driven obsession, and impulses flowing from rage-driven obsessions."

The American people and their representatives in Congress have let that rage get us into two unnecessary wars, which have only served to destabilize the world and lead us closer to the danger of yet another world war. But we should not for a moment forget that the policies which the Bush administration is so brutally implementing, the malthusian anti-population crusade against the children of the world, did not have their genesis with the Bush presidency—although in the 1970s Bush, like Henry Kissinger and the Rockefellers, was heavily involved in fighting for their implementation. It is these policies and capitulation to these policies that are the real disease, and that moral disease has infected too many people in the United States and throughout the world.



February 16, 1990



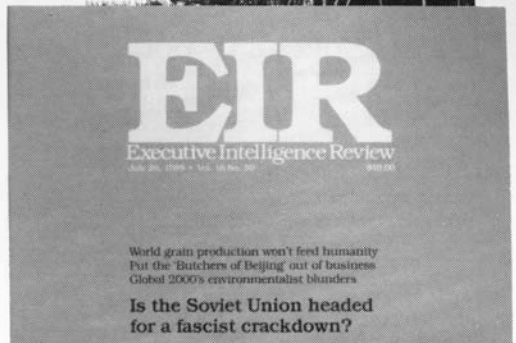
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