

Philippines bishop and senator decry U.S. plan as 'demographic imperialism'

During the second week in August, Bishop Teodoro C. Bacani, Jr., D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Manila, charged that Philippines President Fidel Ramos's population control plan was the result of U.S. "demographic imperialism," because it was directly based on a 1974 U.S. population policy guideline. "We have a copy of a U.S. national security document that shows all its designs are happening in the Philippines," the bishop said.

He was referring to National Security Study Memorandum 200 (NSSM-200), prepared in 1974 under the guidance of National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger. Following its declassification in the spring of 1991, *EIR* has played a crucial role in forcing public awareness of this document, which drastically reoriented U.S. foreign policy away from the traditional goal of fostering technological progress and economic growth, toward malthusian population reduction, and which contained a list of nations deemed a threat to U.S. national security because of their refusal to allow their populations to wither. Particularly in the Ibero-American countries on that list—Brazil and Colombia—news of NSSM-200's existence caused a stir, and the issue was discussed in both country's congresses. But in the United States, the lid remained tightly on until this past August, when Bishop Bacani's charges hit the establishment media.

"I'm really happy to hear it has finally broken in the press there," Philippines Sen. Francisco "Kit" Tatad said in an interview with *EIR* (see p. 11). "But the document was declassified June 6, 1990; that's three years ago! It's a *major* document that affects U.S. policy around the world on a very vital issue. The only conclusion I draw from that is that there is a kind of conspiracy to suppress this valuable information."

Bishop Bacani told *EIR* that the Catholic bishops in the Philippines have just begun their campaign against Ramos's plan. "I told the press that what this was, was demographic imperialism; they are trying to make light of it. But we are preparing more on this." Bishop Bacani leveled his charges about the connection between President Ramos's ambitious population control policies and NSSM-200 in an interview with a journalist that was then picked up by wire services, causing a big enough stir for it to be printed by the establishment press in the United States and Europe. But the bishop added that so far no one had printed the detailed document

he has written on this subject. "I asked the journalist who interviewed me to come back the next day because I was finishing a whole paper on the subject, but he did not come back; the journalists here would not publish my paper." *EIR* therefore has determined to fill this vacuum by reprinting a slightly abridged version of his document, which was drafted on Aug. 13, 1993 in Manila:

Bishop Bacani's paper on NSSM-200

NSSM-200. Very few people have heard about it. But it stands for National Security Study Memorandum 200 on the subject of "Implications of Worldwide Population Growth for U.S. Security and Overseas Interests," a 198-page report from the National Security Council of the United States of America.

This study was issued on Dec. 10, 1974 and signed by Henry Kissinger. On Oct. 16, 1975 Kissinger sent a confidential White House memorandum where he recommended that President Gerald Ford issue a decision memorandum confirming the need for "U.S. leadership in world population matters and endorsing the policy recommendations of the study with some minor exemptions." Among those additional recommendations was a recommendation for a strong emphasis on motivating leaders of key developing countries.

On Nov. 26, 1975 a national security decision memorandum signed by Brent Scowcroft was issued, endorsing both the policy recommendations in the study and the additional points proposed by Kissinger. This memo was directed to the secretaries of state, treasury, defense, agriculture, and HEW [Health, Education and Welfare], and the administrator of the Agency for International Development, with copies to the NSC Under Secretaries Committee, the directors of OMB [Office of Management and Budget] and Central Intelligence, and the heads of the Council of Economic Advisers, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Council on Environmental Quality.

We can take it for granted, then, that NSSM-200 was a very important document, and that it influenced U.S. public policy.

The study names 13 "key countries" in which there were "special U.S. political and strategic interests." The Philippines was among these 13 countries. The others were: India,

Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nigeria, Mexico, Indonesia, Brazil, Thailand, Egypt, Turkey, Ethiopia, and Colombia. Together, according to the study, they account for 47% of the world's current population increase.

The study expressed the need for greater expenditures to combat population growth in developing countries. Why should the population growth of these countries be controlled? The answer, basically, is that the fast growth of the population of these countries would be detrimental to U.S. interests.

NSSM-200 says, "Rapid population growth is not in itself a major factor in pressure on depletable resources (fossil fuels and other minerals), since demand for them depends more on levels of industrial output than on numbers of people. On the other hand, the world is increasingly dependent on mineral supplies from developing countries, and if rapid population frustrates their prospects for economic development and social progress, the resulting instability may undermine the conditions for expanded output and sustained flows of such resources" ("The Secret Plan," *The Catholic World Report*, April 1993, p. 30). . . .

Translated into more simple language, this means that if rapid population growth frustrates the prospects for economic development and social progress of the less developed countries, they may become politically unstable and this instability will prevent the expanded output and free flow of minerals from these countries to the United States.

A similar reason is given later on:

"Adverse socio-economic conditions generated by these and related factors may contribute to increasingly high levels of child abandonment, juvenile delinquency, chronic and growing underemployment and unemployment, petty thievery, organized brigandage, food riots, separatist movements, communal massacres, revolutionary actions, and counterrevolutionary coups. Such conditions also detract from the environment needed to attract the foreign capital vital to increasing levels of economic growth in these areas. If these conditions result in expropriation of foreign interests, such action, from an economic viewpoint, is not in the best interests of either the investing country or the host government (*ibid.*, p. 30).

"Here instability is feared because it will harm the environment needed to attract foreign investments [read: the U.S. business interests will not be able to invest] and may result in the expropriation of foreign interests [read: U.S. businesses may be expropriated]."

It is quite clear that the U.S. government sees the necessity of controlling the growth rate of the less developed countries for the sake of U.S. interests. Thus it is not surprising that foreign aid should be tied to birth control.

According to Jacqueline Kasun, "The professed emphasis is always on development, but for a number of years the foreign assistance act written by Congress, has required foreign countries receiving U.S. aid to take steps to reduce

Current events show clearly the implementation of NSSM-200

NSSM-200's strategy	Current Philippine events
a) Concentration on key countries	The Philippines is targeted as one of the 13 key countries
b) Integration of population factors and population programs into country development planning	The population program of President Ramos is integrated into Philippines 2000 and the country's development program
c) Increased assistance for family planning services, information, and technology	Foreign aid admitted by the government; donations from Johns Hopkins University, and U.S. AID to the government and NGOs
d) Creating conditions conducive to fertility decline	Propaganda on overpopulation, contraception, the dangers of pregnancy, etc.; the media offensive against church teaching
e) Development of a worldwide political and popular commitment to population stabilization is fundamental to any effective strategy	See letters between Indonesian President Suharto and President Ramos. In his letter of June 10, 1993, Suharto reminds Ramos of the 1985 "Statement on Population Stabilization," signed by world leaders. Ramos signs a statement on July 15, 1993 where he says: "We believe that the time has come to recognize the worldwide necessity to achieve population stabilization and for each country to adopt the necessary policies and programs to do so, consistent with its own culture and aspirations."

their rate of population growth ("Exposing the Planners," *The Catholic World Report*, April 1993, p. 39). The less developed countries do not protest against these population control policies because, to quote Jacqueline Kasun again, ". . . you have to realize if they come out and say anything against these policies, there are millions and millions and maybe even billions of dollars in U.S. assistance and general world assistance, from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, which will be cut off."

Further, effort is made to let agencies in the targeted country work for population control. To go back to the words of NSSM-200: "We must take care that our activities should not give the appearance to the LDCs of an industrialized country policy directed against the LDCs. Caution must be taken that any approaches in this field we support in the LDCs are ones we can support within this country. 'Third World' leaders would be in the forefront and obtain the credit for successful programs."

Hence, one can understand why it is national and local leaders who are at the forefront of the campaign for population control. President Ramos, Secretary Flavio, the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines and other NGOs [non-governmental organizations] are perhaps unwitting tools of U.S. interests. At least this is strongly suggested

by the admission of the health secretary himself when he remarked that "aid from international donors, particularly the United States, hinged on a successful birth control program" (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 26, 1993, p. 7).

It is most instructive to see how present events show clearly the implementation of NSSM-200's strategy (see chart).

I thought that the last vestige of U.S. imperialism was removed from the Philippines when Americans shipped out of Subic Bay. But now it seems that U.S. imperialism has not only come back, but is being supported and propagated by the Philippine government and NGOs. This time it has come back in the shape of demographic imperialism, about which Pope John Paul II wrote in 1987: "It is very alarming to see governments in many countries launching systematic campaigns against birth, contrary not only to the cultural and religious identity of the countries themselves but also contrary to the nature of true development. It often happens that these campaigns are the result of pressure and financing coming from abroad, and in some cases they are made a condition for the granting of financial and economic aid and assistance. In any event, there is an absolute lack of respect for the freedom of choice of the parties involved, men and women often subjected to intolerable pressures, including economic ones, in order to force them to submit to this new form of oppression. It is the poorest populations which suffer such mistreatment, and this sometimes leads to a tendency toward a form of racism, or the promotion of certain racist forms of eugenics" (*Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, no. 25).

The point of this paper is not to deny the existence of a population problem in the Philippines, nor the need to slow down the population growth rate to a level truly conducive to national development.

My point is that we should make sure that the decisions regarding our population growth are at least truly made by us and are not being made by others for us. Allowing others to dictate how our population should grow (or not grow) and what means we should use to regulate our population growth is one of the most abject forms of subjection.

Interview: Sen. Francisco Tatad

Ramos's birth plan is a 'foreign import'

The Philippines senator who has been the most active in blowing the whistle on the real agenda behind the overpopulation myths is Francisco "Kit" Tatad. On Sept. 1, the day

that Senator Tatad was reached by telephone by EIR, he had just delivered a lecture on the subject at the University of the Philippines. "I've been trying to point out that this program is not indigenous to the country; that it has been imported from outside . . . to satisfy the strategic interests of the wealthy countries," the senator told EIR's Lydia Cherry. "I think this is beginning to sink in, very slowly, among the young people who have been brainwashed by the media blitz being conducted by the Department of Health right now."

EIR: There has been quite a fight over the population control programs being pushed on the Philippines by international agencies.

Tatad: To make a general statement, the Philippine Constitution of 1987 chose to reject a provision in the old Constitution or the 1973 Marcos Constitution, which allowed the state to determine population targets. This was debated in the Constitutional Commission which drew up that Constitution. In place of that provision, the new Constitution decided to carry numerous pro-family, pro-marriage, and pro-life provisions. The preamble itself, in an unprecedented and unique way, used the word "love" — "in a regime of love, justice, freedom," etc. The other provisions are quite specific: The first provision that I can mention appears in Article II, Section 12, which says that the state shall equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from the moment of conception. There are numerous other provisions in this Constitution which talk about the sanctity of family life, the inviolability of marriage, that the family is the basic, autonomous social institution, and so forth.

I'd like to concentrate on that provision which I quoted previously, which says that the state shall equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from the moment of conception. Now the government concedes that that provision does not allow abortion, but the government is trying to split hairs by saying that since contraception is not mentioned, therefore the government can undertake a program of contraception. I take the position that when the Constitution says that the state shall protect the life of the unborn from the moment of conception, it is saying, that it shall do nothing to prevent women from conceiving. Otherwise, the provision should have read, "The state shall protect the life of the unborn provided the life survives the government contraceptive program." That would be some kind of double-dealing; we do not believe the Constitution speaks in this manner. . . . This does not mean the state is going to prohibit private individuals from using contraceptives, but at least it is very clear that the government itself shall not get involved in pushing this. This is the constitutional basis of my position.

EIR: Does the fact that the Ramos government is pushing this very hard, in spite of your Constitution, mean there has been pressure from international funding agencies?