

## Australia Dossier by Bruce Jacobs

### Kooks push genocide in Cairo

*Australia's extensive population control apparatus was "made in Britain," and is based on racial purity doctrines.*

A key organization energizing the Australian government's mad push for the adoption of radical population control doctrines at the September U.N. conference in Cairo, is the Family Planning Association of Australia. The FPAA has provided key personnel and much of the ideology behind the extensive "family planning," "birth control," and "population control" lobby here. The FPAA will be part of the Australian government's formal delegation in Cairo and is the government's chief recipient of birth control funds which, in the 1993-94 budget, will be \$30 million.

A brief look at the history of the FPAA demonstrates it to have been organized in Britain around the fanatically anti-Christian "racial purity" doctrines of the leader of the Theosophy cult, Annie Besant (1847-1943). Theosophy (literally "god-knowledge") was founded in 1875 by the Russian Madame Blavatsky and taken over after her death by the Briton Besant. A weird mixture of freemasonry and Eastern religions, the cult teaches that there is an ancient secret wisdom which can only be communicated to the chosen few by the "Ascended Masters," including Jesus Christ, who live in Tibet. The secret knowledge is preserved among a special race of men, whose "racial purity" is all-important.

One of the FPAA's chief propagandists is Dr. Stephana Siedlecky, who in the mid-1970s was appointed as the federal government's first adviser in Family Planning for the Commonwealth Department of Health, a position she maintained until 1986.

Dr. Siedlecky, a board member of the FPAA, is also a member of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the co-author of *Populate and Perish: Australian Women's Fight for Birth Control*.

In the latter, Siedlecky traces the history of Australia's birth control lobby to Besant, who wrote and published in the late 1870s one of the first birth control tracts, *The Law of Population*. Wrote Besant: "Those who oppose birth control are either incapable of arithmetic else in favour of war, pestilence and famine as permanent features of human life." *The Law of Population* was republished in Australia and played a formative role in the Australian population control lobby.

The first institution to formally embody these ideas in Australia was "The Race Improvement Society," formed in Sydney in 1926, and renamed the "Racial Hygiene Association of New South Wales." One of the key founders of this outfit was Ruby Rich (1880-1980). According to the pamphlet "Ruby Rich: Family Planning Pioneer 1888-1988," Rich became a feminist during finishing school in England and "was influenced by the Theosophist beliefs of the British birth control campaigner, Annie Besant."

Rich was adopted into the inner elite of Besant's cult, becoming "a member of this secret spiritual society's Co-Masons group." Back in Australia, the Theosophists provided the logistical and financial support to help launch the new movement, through the Theosophy-owned Sydney radio station 2GB, and cult-

owned bookshops and cinemas. Like Dr. Siedlecky, Rich also played a key role in the United Nations apparatus. According to her obituary in the *Australian Jewish News*, Rich "played a prominent role on the executive of the League of Nations Union."

Bolstered by inputs of money and personnel trained in Britain, including several of Besant's disciples, the birth control lobby in Australia grew rapidly. In 1929, the Racial Hygiene Association (RHA) sponsored a conference on "eugenics," and the 1931-32 RHA annual report made clear the association's outlook: "The mental defectives are a great burden to society causing gloom, fear and inferiority complexes. Our society takes a very definite stand on that point and openly advocates sterilization of the unfit. . . . Our society is definitely pledged along lines of human, biological and eugenic ideals. A good or bad human race does not just happen, it is bred the same as sheep etc. can be bred."

A key early supporter of the RHA was Dr. Norman Haire, Honorary Medical Officer of the Malthusian League in London. Melbourne's first birth control clinic was opened in 1934, sponsored by the Eugenics Society of Australia, two of whose initiators were Prof. Wilfred Agar, who had come from England in 1919, and Dr. Victor Wallace, who had worked in England with birth control fanatic Dr. Marie Stopes.

During the 1950s, the RHA became an associate member of the newly formed International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), which was first established in Bombay, India in 1952 with an initial grant of £ 5,000 from the British Foundation for Race Betterment, and whose rent-free premises were provided by the Eugenics Society. At the behest of the IPPF, the RHA changed its name to the Family Planning Association of Australia.