

Expose Cairo plans to depopulate U.S., too

by Kathleen Klenetsky

EIR has discovered that a key objective of the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo is to step up the United Nations-centered campaign to destroy what remains of the industrial and technological foundation of the advanced-sector economies, on the pretext that their "overconsumption of resources" and overall "wastefulness," are placing an insupportable burden on the Earth's "carrying capacity."

Although most of the charges that have been leveled against the agenda of the Sept. 5-13 Cairo conference have focused on its intent to coerce poor nations into radical population-cutting measures ("contraceptive imperialism" is the Vatican's term), neither the United States nor the rest of the industrialized world will be spared. Even some Cairo critics have been influenced by the rhetoric that counterposes advanced-sector prosperity to Third World growth, and have accepted the false ideology that resources are fixed and limited. The reality, as Lyndon LaRouche has proven in his economic writings, is that the capital-goods producing capacity of industrial nations is vital to the future of poorer nations, just as the industrialization of now-backward countries is the only thing that will stop the depression in the western and Japanese economies.

The United States, which still enjoys a strong population growth rate *relative* to western Europe, where fertility rates have fallen below replacement, will face demands from the neo-malthusian circles which are orchestrating Cairo, to apply aggressive population control at home. It has already been publicly suggested that the U.S. population of 260 million must be reduced to 200 million or less, to achieve the zero-growth nirvana of "sustainable development."

Not a new agenda

The goal of depopulating, and deindustrializing, the world, including the United States, has been the agenda of the modern-day environmentalist movement, launched in the late 1960s by the Rockefeller Foundation, the Aspen Institute, and their sister institutions. As early as 1970, "Population Bomb" hoaxster Paul Ehrlich wrote, "A massive campaign must be launched to restore a quality environment in North America and to *de-develop the United States*. De-

development means bringing our economic system (especially patterns of consumption) into line with the realities of ecology and the world resource situation."

This prescription received a political boost at the U.N.'s 1992 Rio Earth Summit, which, through Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration, proposed a radical attack on industrial activity, on the grounds that it posed a danger to Mother Earth. At Rio, the U.S. Bush administration took the lead in proposing a nasty trade-off, telling developing nations that if they accepted the need to discuss further reductions in their population, the industrialized countries would reciprocate by agreeing to discuss cutbacks in their resource consumption.

The attack on "overconsumption" pervaded the Rio documents. As the official U.N. *Guide to Agenda 21* stated: "The modern industrial economy has led to the unprecedented use of energy and raw materials and generations of waste. . . . Present levels of certain kinds of consumption such as energy resources in industrialized countries are already giving rise to serious environmental problems and are unlikely to be sustainable over the longer term. . . . This calls for a practical strategy to bring about a fundamental transition from the wasteful consumption patterns of the past to new consumption patterns based on efficiency and concern for the future."

Of course, the developing sector must be forbidden to follow the "unsustainable" economic model of the West. "The replication throughout the developing world of the present consumption patterns of industrialized countries is not a viable option," the guide asserted. "Continuing these consumption levels in industrialized countries would not only be unsustainable but would also gravely threaten the Earth's ecology."

A 'de-development' strategy

Over the next year, the U.N. will hold three international conferences—Cairo, the social development summit in March 1995, and the women's conference in September 1995—which are intended to usher in the final stages of this "de-development" strategy for the United States and other advanced economies, under the direction of the United Nations itself.

The draft program for the Cairo conference makes no bones about its goal of squashing economic development. "There is evidence that the indiscriminate pursuit of economic growth in nearly all countries . . . is threatening and undermining the basis for progress by future generations," it asserts. "States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate demographic policies." This would require "reassessing and changing agricultural, industrial, and energy policies, reducing excess resource consumption, and curbing unsustainable population growth." To slash both population and consumption levels, the program calls for such measures as "taxes, user fees, and other policies that foster sustainable resource use."

Target: U.S.A.

Because of the United States' relatively intense utilization of energy and other components of an advanced economy, as well as its above-replacement-level fertility rate, various pro-Cairo tracts issued by the population control/environmentalist lobby place slashing U.S. consumption and population as a top priority.

An information sheet circulated by the Pew Global Stewardship Initiative, which has been financing much of the pro-Cairo activity in the United States, calls for "slower population growth and dramatically reduced consumption" in the advanced sector, because: "Industrialized countries have only 25% of the world's population, but use 85% of all forest products consumed, 72% of steel production, and 75% of energy. They also generate 75% of pollutants and waste." The same specious argument dominates another Pew publication, a book (*Beyond the Numbers*) published this year in conjunction with the Rockefeller Philanthropic Collaborative, Inc.

In a chapter on "The Conundrum of Consumption," contributor Alan Durning rejects the possibility of raising the living standards of the developing sector, and insists that everyone will have to live with less: "The global environment cannot support 1.1 billion of us living like American consumers, much less 5.5 billion, or a future population of at least 8 billion."

Cairo '94, the newsletter of the U.S. Network for Cairo, a conglomeration of anti-growth non-governmental organizations (NGOs), published a feature in its May issue headlined, "Countdown to Cairo: U.S. Consumption Weighs In." The story reports: "Delegates to the U.N.'s upcoming conference on population and development know that consumption patterns in the United States and other industrialized nations adversely affect the environment, as well as deprive future generations of resources needed for development and a decent quality of life. Sustainable development is a central theme of the Cairo conference, and efforts to mitigate excessive resource use will undoubtedly be a major topic for discussion. . . . The adoption of policies to alter unsustainable and environmentally damaging patterns of consumption will be equally important" to policies for controlling population growth.

Unfortunately, some members of the Clinton administration, notably Undersecretary of State for Global Affairs Tim Wirth, have embraced this unscientific view. In the foreword to *Beyond the Numbers*, Wirth, who will lead the U.S. delegation to Cairo, writes: "We also know that, as citizens of the industrialized world, we are consuming natural resources at an unprecedented and unsustainable rate. . . . It is an open question whether the Earth cannot support its present—much less future—inhabitants at this level of consumption."

In a speech to the National Press Club in Washington on July 12, Wirth claimed not only that there is a world population explosion, but, "At the same time the industrialized world has developed the capability and consumptive capacity to utilize resources and produce waste at a rate that is unprece-

ented in human history. "We are getting ourselves into a terrible fix," Wirth went on. "The globe's population is growing at a rate that is exceeded only by our capacity to consume resources and produce waste. This is a completely unsustainable course."

Last year, the Clinton administration established the President's Commission on Sustainable Development, headed by Jonathan Lash of the rabidly "green" World Resources Institute, to devise a "sustainable development strategy" for the United States. The commission recently released a "vision statement" which insists that "population must be stabilized at a level consistent with the capacity of the Earth to support its inhabitants."

Some "sustainable development" proponents argue that reducing U.S. "overconsumption" will require draconian population reduction. Prof. David Pimentel of Cornell University created an international furor earlier this year when, in a paper presented at a scientific conference, he said that the Earth's "carrying capacity" was limited to 2 billion people. Pimentel has recommended that the U.S. population be cut from 260 million to 200 million.

But even more extreme views abound. According to a spokesman for the Carrying Capacity Network, on whose board Pimentel sits, "it might be necessary to reduce the population to 70 million, or even 50 million, if we want to rely solely on renewable resources."

Toward a New Council of Florence 'On the Peace of Faith' and Other Works by Nicolaus of Cusa

The Schiller Institute has just released this new book of translations of seminal writings of the 15th-century Roman Catholic Cardinal Nicolaus of Cusa, who, through his work and writings, contributed more than anyone else to the launching of the European Golden Renaissance. The title of the book, *Toward a New Council of Florence*, expresses our purpose in publishing it: to spark a new Renaissance today.

- 12 works published for the first time in English
- New translations of 3 important works



\$15 plus \$3.50
shipping and handling

Schiller Institute, Inc.

P.O. Box 66082 Washington, D.C. 20035-6082
phone: 202-544-7018