

Earth First! calls for expansion of terrorism: 'We will raze the citadel'

by Rogelio A. Maduro

Mike Roselle, the head of the eco-terrorist gang Earth First!, has openly admitted that his group is a terrorist organization—just as *EIR* reported in our Jan. 13 *Feature* (p. 26). The admission was published in the December 1994 issue of the group's publication, *Earth First! Journal*, as part of a diatribe against "respectable" environmentalist lobbyists who, according to Roselle, have "sold out" the Green cause.

As readers of the *EIR* report will recognize, Roselle's effort to distance his terrorist group from the well-heeled environmentalist apparatus are phony. Earth First!, the Animal Liberation Front, Sea Shepherd, and all of the groups that openly engage in "eco-tage" and eco-terrorism were created top-down and are controlled to this day by the highest echelons of the Green apparatus—the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) of Britain's Prince Philip. The effort to create the appearance of a rift between the terrorist underbelly and the Green "citizens above suspicion" is itself just further corroboration that the *EIR* exposé was not only accurate: It drew blood.

Invoking the 'revolution'

Roselle's article in *Earth First! Journal* is a declaration of war against America's agro-industrial base and against the Clinton administration—both prime targets of Prince Philip and his Club of the Isles apparatus. Speaking of the 10 largest environmental groups, which include the Sierra Club and the National Wildlife Federation, Roselle wrote in the *Earth First! Journal*, "Their Big Ten memberships decline because people no longer believe the braggadoccio that saturates their direct mail like the smell of urine in the bathroom of a biker bar. They whine and worry. The mainstream environmental groups are quickly becoming irrelevant."

What will replace them? Says Roselle:

"Fortunately the grassroots groups, with a few exceptions, are sticking to their guns. We don't care who is in power in Washington, for whoever stands on the walls of Babylon will be a target for our arrows. When we raze the citadel, it will matter not who holds the keys to the corporate washroom, or who has reserved parking at National Airport, because we will be out trashing their limos and doing donuts on the greens of their racist country clubs. What we want is nothing short of a revolution.

"F*** that crap you read in *Wild Earth* or in *Confessions*

of an Eco-Warrior. Monkeywrenching is more than just sabotage, and you're g*dd*mn right it's revolutionary! This is ji-hahd, pal. There are no innocent bystanders, because in these desperate hours, bystanders are not innocent. We'll broaden our theater of conflict. What happens in Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City, Rio de Janeiro, in the frozen and radioactive waters of Siberia does matter, even if it's not in our wilderness proposal.

"Everything, every assumption, every institution needs to be challenged. Now!" Roselle goes on:

"And more spiking is needed to convey the urgency of the situation!" (In "spiking," eco-terrorists drive metal spikes into a tree, which are either hit by the logger's chainsaw or later struck at the mill by the bandsaw, shooting deadly shrapnel all over.) "Very little action is happening. Too many armchair eco-warriors walking around town in camo. Go out and get them suckers, fill them full of steel, and I promise you this: You might get caught; you might do some time; your friends might abandon you. But you will never have to spike the same tree twice.

"We are not afraid of Newt Gingrich or the Wise Use movement. We will not suck up to anyone. We will not miss the Democrats or the Sierra Club. As George Bush said once, 'Don't cry for me, Argentina.'"

Leading leftists side with Earth First!

Roselle's call to arms and terrorism is not an isolated one. It is being made in the mainstream press by leading leftist spokesmen. The Dec. 19 issue of the *Nation* magazine carried a five-page article by staff writer Alexander Cockburn and a radical Green, Jeffrey St. Clair, promoting Roselle's views. The theme of the *Nation* article was that the elections in which most Green congressmen were thrown out were not "Armageddon" for environmentalists, but "the harbinger of a new dawn."

In this "new dawn," as discussed by Cockburn and St. Clair, the "behemoth" national environmental groups will fall apart while the "grassroots groups" out in the hinterlands will rise in power and topple Gingrich, Bill Clinton and the conservative Democrats, and corporate America. Cockburn states:

"The overall map of the environmental movement can be deceiving . . . from inside the Washington Beltway the

perspective is dominated by the big green outfits: the Sierra Club, the National Audubon Society, the Wilderness Society, World Wildlife Fund, National Wildlife Federation. Flanking these are the badly neo-liberal litigation shops, lawyer-driven groups with no popular base whatsoever, like the Environmental Defense Fund, Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund. Then, 'out there' are the grassroots groups and militant operations, ranging from Earth First!ers at the Cove-Mallard Coalition in Idaho to community-based organizations like Labor-Community Watchdog in Los Angeles, to Save America's forests inside the [Washington, D.C.] Beltway, to Rachel's *Environment and Health Weekly* in Annapolis, Maryland."

Cockburn said, "The 'out there' sector may appear to be diminutive next to the corporate-lawyer-driven behemoths, but it is where the future of environmentalism in America is to be found. . . . The future of the environmental movement must be found in its past, in a return to its roots. This green revival has been building for several years, and is grounded in the belief that successful campaigns can be waged and won from the hinterlands of America, whether in forests, rivers, or ghettos."

Cockburn omits mention of the terrorist background of some of these grassroots groups. This "evolving new conservation movement," states Cockburn, "is a loose confederation of groups, across a vigorous spectrum of individual and collective acts of resistance."

Cockburn begins the article describing how former Rep. Mike Synar (D-Okla.) denounced participants at an environmental conference in Missoula, Montana, following the elections, for betraying the Democratic Party. The participants, noted Cockburn, told Synar, the leading eco-fascist who got the boot in November, that it had been Bill Clinton and the Democrats that had betrayed the environmental movement by not being radical enough.

As *EIR* has reported, the keynote speaker at this conference was Cecilia Rodriguez, the U.S. spokesman for the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN). In fact, most of the speakers at the conference were hard-core terrorists, including most of the leadership of Earth First! This meeting cemented the close alliance between the Mexican terrorists and the U.S. eco-terrorist apparatus.

Armed animals

The kind of para-military capabilities possessed by this "new conservation movement," are best illustrated by the seizure of a huge weapons arsenal from an animal rights group in California by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms last June. The Jan. 17 *Los Angeles Times* reported that federal agents found \$100,000 worth of semi-automatic assault weapons, including high-caliber Israeli guns, in the possession of Mercy Crusade, Inc., an animal rights organization. Incredibly, Mercy Crusade members have permits to carry and use these weapons in California under an arcane

state statute.

The assault weapons were used by the group's 12 "humane officers." These are quasi-policemen who have powers of investigation and arrest in animal abuse cases. They wear uniforms and badges almost identical to those used by California Highway Patrol officers; they are allowed to carry guns, and have extensive police powers. What's missing is any formal training in law enforcement and supervision from any government agency. According to the *Times*, the existence of these heavily armed animal rights vigilantes is allowed under an obscure 80-year-old California law that allows "animal welfare groups to appoint such officers with a judge's approval."

The paper noted that although animal rights groups have hundreds of "humane officers" in California, "state officials say there is no centralized registry of who they are, or which of them are authorized to carry weapons."

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms seized the arsenal from Mercy Crusade after gun dealers reported that the tax-exempt organization was sending members to gun shops, posing as law enforcement officers, and purchasing large quantities of assault weapons with checks drawn on the organization's account. The arsenal included AR-15s, a Bushmaster, Heckler and Koch assault guns, and a high-caliber Israeli gun. The *Times* noted that "federal agents are still investigating, saying they are concerned that they cannot answer this question: Why would a group whose stated purpose is to deal with mistreatment of animals want to arm badge-wearing volunteers with military-style weapons that would give them far more firepower than a police SWAT squad?"

James McCourt, a Pepperdine University economics professor and the head of Mercy Crusade's "humane officers," told the *Los Angeles Times* that they needed the assault weapons to "protect animal shelters from rioters," citing the Los Angeles riots.

Mercy Crusade, which has annual revenues of almost \$3 million, is part of the animal rights network of the Fund for Animals, the radical organization created and run by Amory Lovins. Fund for Animals financed the creation of the Sea Shepherd Society and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. PETA is the public relations arm of the Animal Liberation Front, the terrorist outfit that firebombs medical research facilities and carries out assassinations of medical researchers.

Fund for Animals also hired Rod Coronado to do research for them shortly before he firebombed a medical research facility in Michigan. Coronado was on the FBI's most wanted list for two years as a result of that, and was recently captured by the FBI in Arizona. After his arrest, Coronado sent a letter to the *Earth First! Journal* revealing that he had participated in the terrorist attack against Iceland which destroyed a whaling station and two whaling boats (half their whaling fleet). Coronado also revealed that he collaborated with Earth First!