

A bad day for Peccei and the Club of Rome

by Mark Burdman

On May 8 and 9, the United Nations was the scene of a conference on "Regionalism and the New International Economic Order," cosponsored by the Club of Rome, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the Mexico City based Center for Third World Studies (CEESTEM). The sponsors had carefully rigged the environment with a wide array of speeches and position papers calling for a "restructuring" of the world system. Security was unusually tight for a "public" United Nations event.

The speakers told the audience of European and developing sector nation representatives of a new world system of "regional blocs" whose interrelations would be controlled by a small chosen elite of "wise men" handpicked by the Club of Rome. It is the Club's "limits to growth" project of global deindustrialization and return to the feudal age that would be implemented under such a world system.

This was the first Club of Rome event ever held at the United Nations, and its founder and leader Aurelio Peccei, the "maestro" of the whole affair, wanted nothing to go wrong.

Peccei was not to have his way.

As the event began on the morning of May 8, several representatives from Citizens for LaRouche, the presidential campaign organization of Democrat Lyndon LaRouche passed out to the gathering an information sheet entitled "We Warn You: The Club of Rome is a NATO Intelligence Branch." The document traced the roots of The Club of Rome to a NATO decision to create a detechnologized world order in the late 1960s and listed the many Club of Rome members who are top strategists



A May 8 Club of Rome-UNITAR press conference with Ervin Laszlo (far left), Aurelio Peccei (center) and other officials.

Photo: UN

in the NATO command. The document further reminded readers that in the mid-1970s Peccei—who cultivates a debonair aristocratic image—advocated "cannibalism" as a final solution for mankind under conditions of global Club of Rome austerity.

Neither Peccei nor Ervin Laszlo, UNITAR's research-director, appreciated the circulation of this information. A visibly unnerved Laszlo ordered UNITAR Secretary-General Davidson Nicol to have the representatives forcibly ejected from the room, on the basis, oddly enough, that the leaflet was "racist."

Laszlo's unbalanced reaction amused several onlookers, who began to suspect that there was more than a germ of truth in the leaflet's charges, and that Laszlo's "anticolonialist" posturing was not all as it was cracked up to be.

The Club of Rome's carefully controlled environment was cracked again a few moments later. Following Peccei's opening remarks, another LaRouche campaign representative rose to challenge Peccei's assertion that the current world system is "ungovernable" and to decry the "infamy" of Third World representatives cooperating with the Club of Rome, an institution whose policies must lawfully lead to the substantial reduction of the population throughout the developing sector.

This representative, too, was forcibly ejected from the room, handcuffed, and removed from the United Nations building.

The systems analysts and social engineers of the Club of Rome seemed unnerved by this turn of events.

At a press conference after the morning session, Laszlo abruptly adjourned the question-and-answer pe-

riod, refusing to answer questions from a correspondent from this journal about the Club of Rome's stated antipathy toward the nation-state and its insistence on a radically reduced living standard for the world's population.

'South-South collective self-reliance'

Underlying this clash between representatives of the Club of Rome-UNITAR group and representatives of the LaRouche campaign are some very fundamental differences in world political and economic policies. Whereas the Club of Rome posits a future world depopulated by genocidal policies of deindustrialization and deurbanization, LaRouche, an internationally renowned economist, has proposed the creation of an International Development Bank to fund the growth of the high-technology industrial export capacity of Europe and the United States to industrially and agriculturally develop the Third World. LaRouche's proposal informed the development of the European Monetary System by the leaders of France and West Germany.

As LaRouche has argued in policy statements over the years, it is to the mutual interest of proindustrial tendencies in both the developing and advanced sectors that this economic gearup be launched. If not and the policies of the Club of Rome and UNITAR gain ascendancy, then the pauperized Third World regions will become the battlegrounds for world war. It is these no-growth policies that impel the countries of these regions to form NATO-like military blocs and force an increasingly impoverished advanced sector into looting adventures abroad that bring them in direct confrontation with the nations of the Warsaw Pact.

The top advisers at the Club of Rome and UNITAR are well acquainted with Mr. LaRouche's statements and ideas. Ervin Laszlo is one such adviser.

In a special conference working document authored by Laszlo, an introductory section entitled "The Regional and Interregional Strategy for Collective Self-Reliance" sounded this note of alarm:

In recent years there has been a growing perception in some developed countries that the relaunching of international economic growth is dependent first of all on economic relations.

Mr. Laszlo is also *against* a joint commitment on the part of advanced and developing sectors for global industrialization. He continues in his policy document:

This perception [of the priority of economic recovery in the industrialized countries] encourages the belief that the most pressing need is to correct temporary flaws in the workings of the present international economic system rather than to restructure it and create a new international economic order.

Laszlo calls for a mobilization of the Third World against the advanced sector:

[The developing countries must] "acquire sufficient negotiating power to press the issues and bring about earnest and mutually productive bargaining on the North-South level. . . . The developing countries [must] achieve sufficient self-reliance on the South-South level to sustain their economies until such time as a negotiated restructuring of the international economy can lift the constraints on their development.

To accomplish this gameplan, Laszlo emphasized, the Third World would have to be organized into "blocs" capable of confronting the advanced sector head-on. The centralness of this goal explains the tight lid that Laszlo and Peccei tried to maintain over the conference proceedings.

Who are your clients?'

At a private cocktail party the evening of May 8, several of the conference's leading lights expressed the fear that this tight lid had been blown.

A fidgety Alexander King confided to an investigative journalist: "I am very depressed. You can see the problems we're having in getting our restructuring proposals across in the United States. That LaRouche leaflet today exemplifies what I mean. It is symptomatic of the American population's insistence to this day on growth, on consumption. It is very hard to get people here to change, especially when our planning sessions get disrupted in this way."

Similarly, James Botkin, a Harvard School of Education professor who has co-authored a recent Club of Rome "learning project" premised on infiltrating the "limits to growth" perspective in school curricula around the world, remarked to an associate: "What is going on in this conference and what is going on in the U.S. is worlds apart. We can meet and talk all we want in organized sessions, but our message about restructuring the world system is getting nowhere in the U.S."

To various observers at the cocktail party, this mood of depression contrasted sharply—and eerily—with the unending, pompous speeches on "regionalism" and "restructuring" and other Club of Rome code words. *EIR's* correspondent decided to probe further, and conducted interviews with Peccei, King, and Laszlo. All three were near-hypnotized when our correspondent queried these three on the "Aquarian Conspiracy" to deliberately induce a moral, material, cultural and intellectual decay of the population of the United States and the Club's role in that conspiracy. These three "global planners" also had difficulty grasping the method of the LaRouche-Riemann economic-modeling approach that *EIR* economists have applied to analyze the U.S. and world econo-

my. That approach scientifically debunks the entire "limits to growth" fraud of the Club of Rome by demonstrating that their approach leads to the phenomenon of thermodynamic death in a society and that this can be averted by the introduction of new energy-dense technologies which positively transform the resource-base of the society. This presented a particular difficulty to the diminutive King, since his International Federation of Institutes of Advanced Studies has developed a computer-simulated "thermodynamic" model based on the law of entropy.

Laszlo too did not appreciate the evaluation that the LaRouche-Riemann model would soon put the Club of Rome and UNITAR out of business. "Who are your clients?" he defensively asked.

Industrial development or a new world empire?

On the second day of the conference, the kind of world system that the Club of Rome is committed to was described in a revealing way by U.S. Senator Claiborne Pell. Identifying himself "as proud to be a member of the Club of Rome as I am to be a U.S. Senator," Pell made the following point: "The Roman, Persian, Egyptian, and British empires provided an unprecedented degree of security and prosperity to the world. Although they eventually broke up because of their subjugation of populations, they provided a good model for us today to map the future."

Various "case studies" of how to create "regional blocs" were then laid out. During the discussion period, Christian Curtis, an adviser to Mr. LaRouche, was called upon. Expressing "astonishment at the ineptitude of the ideas being expressed here today," Curtis commented: "As most of you in the audience know, Mr. LaRouche has outlined a straightforward and workable world development approach: rapid development of thermonuclear fusion power, the transfer of *heavy* industry, *not* the Club of Rome's 'appropriate' technologies, to the Third World, and the establishment of an International Development Bank to finance these transfers."

Despite several attempts from the dais to interrupt Curtis, considerable interest was aroused in the audience to this presentation. Curtis was complemented by several Third World representatives for presenting an alternative to UNITAR's approach and was asked for further documentation of the Club of Rome's NATO links.

Again, the disorientation set in among the conference organizers. When Pell was asked by *EIR* correspondent what his evaluation was of the charges that the Club of Rome was a NATO branch, he said, "I'm having trouble focusing today. I can't seem to focus on what is going on around us, on what you are saying. I'm very spaced out today."

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS

'We created the ecology movement'

The Club of Rome's Maurice Guernier, Aurelio Peccei's right-hand man, granted an interview to Executive Intelligence Review's United Nations correspondent Nancy Coker after the closing session of the May 8-9 Club of Rome conference at the United Nations.

Guernier himself presented a paper on "Regionalism and the New International Economic Order: Some Conclusions." "The Club of Rome," he said, "is today presenting a proposition for a New World Order based on 'An Inter-Community World System' which will gradually replace the present International World System." What he envisions is a "dialogue of civilizations based on the "true human and social values of peoples rather than based on a world merchant economy." Such a cybernetic system, as he describes it, is the only alternative the world has for solving the problems of the future: overpopulation, overurbanization, food shortages, ecological deterioration and so forth. Nationalism is not the answer. "The events in Iran should lead us to understand that the model for the universe is not an industrial society which is a super-consumer."

UNITAR, as the title of Guernier's presentation indicates, does not believe in the nation-state. Or put differently, they wish to turn the clock back to the dark ages, before emergence of nation states, when "regional communities" were dominant, for example, the Hapsburg empire.

Guernier's interview with our U.N. correspondent follows.

Q: How do you plan to go about getting people to accept your regional/global schema for lowering consumption, decreasing population growth, and so forth?

A: It is obvious that if we ask the people of the Third World to go along with the regional community idea that we have, they will have some objections, some difficulties. What we have to do is make the people change. What can we do? First of all, we have to convince the people, talk with them. We have to put our hopes on the few people, the few chiefs of state who are ready to think like us. For example, in Africa, President Senghor of Senegal. He is absolutely open to this problem. He has just set up a foundation whose name is the Foundation Senghor of Senegal, which is very close to us . . .