

'Battle of Seattle' comes to Washington

by Our Special Correspondent

As we go to press, representatives of 405 organizations from around the world—some of whom are well-known terrorists—are beginning to descend by the thousands upon Washington, D.C. for a "Mobilization for Global Justice," directed against the April 15-17 meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

These are the same groups that tried to shut down the World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting in Seattle, Washington on Nov. 30-Dec. 3, 1999. As *EIR*'s eyewitness correspondent reported at that time, while many of the 30,000 participants there truly believed that they were protesting IMF/World Bank/WTO genocide, they were essentially shells for ecological-terrorist groups like Earth First! Also present in Seattle were terrorists from other international organizations, primarily based in Britain.

One British group, Reclaim the Streets, staged violent street actions in Britain, including in the City of London financial district (where they nearly burned down a train station), at the same time as the Seattle mayhem, while British members of Earth First! were committing violence in Seattle.

A temporarily overwhelmed Seattle Police Department used tear gas, pepper spray, and rubber bullets to combat terrorists wearing ski masks, who attacked the police and destroyed property, during the opening moments of the WTO session. The hard-core rioters in Seattle had staged a week of training and planning at a site north of the city, bankrolled by the Ruckus Society and such "Daddy Warbucks" of the eco-terrorist international as Ted Turner. The same agencies have been engaged in months of preparation for an even bigger disruption of the IMF meeting in the nation's capital.

As the Internet edition of Earth First!'s journal reports, Seattle was just the "coming-out party" for the groups that will now converge on Washington. The journal issues a call to arms: "Your presence in Washington is needed! The finance ministers and international bureaucrats who shape the world economy to make the rich richer and the poor poorer need to know that Seattle was not just a bump on their road to global domination. . . . The IMF and World Bank are in many ways the 'parents' of the WTO." The journal also welcomes the participation of the AFL-CIO.

The misbegotten role of organized labor

According to sources at the AFL-CIO, President John Sweeney has approved an array of demonstrations during the

April 9-16 period, which will only add to the strain on the overstretched police forces of the nation's capital. These include:

April 9: Some 5-10,000 members of the AFL-CIO and the international organization known as Jubilee 2000, will form a chain around the White House, Capitol Hill, and the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, ostensibly to call for the alleviation of Third World debt. While many of the demonstrators will be students, trade union rank and file, and others who legitimately want to see the Third World debt crisis alleviated, the top officials of this gathering are far more jaded. Jubilee 2000 co-founder Ann Pettifor, from Britain, according to investigation by *EIR*'s European bureau, advocates the "privatization of the IMF" and *opposes* immediate debt relief. She is an ally of British Prime Minister Tony Blair. One of the chief supporters of Jubilee 2000 is Harvard economist Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, who helped George Soros impose IMF shock therapy throughout the former East bloc, and now quibbles with how well the IMF has imposed austerity conditionalities.

April 12: Ten thousand members of the AFL-CIO will arrive in Washington to pressure Congress not to pass normal trade relations with China.

April 13: United Steel Workers of America President George Becker will lead 1,800 USWA members in a candle-light vigil to alleviate Third World debt, in Lafayette Park across from the White House.

April 16: With the permission of AFL-CIO President Sweeney, several AFL-CIO affiliated unions—e.g., the American Federation of Government Employees—will join in a "permitted rally" occupying the Ellipse to the south of the White House lawn. Other participants will include the anarchistic AIDS advocacy group ACT UP, Pax Christi, and Essential Action. This rally will occur at the height of efforts to use "direct action" to close off Pennsylvania Avenue to the north of the White House, while other "direct action" affinity groups seek to block delegates from attending the IMF/World Bank meeting.

The Seattle model

EIR investigations to date have discovered that a "Spokes Council," composed of members of 15 or more working groups, have been planning how to bring the "Battle of Seattle" to Washington, using the same model of non-hierarchical leadership that was employed in Seattle. This model is based on "affinity group" networks, operating autonomously.

Apart from the convergence site, where the groups will be given training in "non-violent action," they will also be briefed on preparations that include: a field hospital for those injured by clashes with the police; soup kitchens to feed the troops; legal aid supplied by the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) and related groups, as in Seattle; and, a bicycle brigade to avoid surveillance in the conveyance of messages and scouting for intelligence on police deployments.