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*Conference Report*

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## Hormats ducks out of Club of Rome session

by Stanley Ezrol and Lydia Cherry

The Club of Rome held its tenth-anniversary conference at U.S. government expense at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. March 1-3, but Assistant Secretary of State and Business Affairs Hormats failed to make his controversial scheduled appearance.

Over the past 10 years, the Club of Rome has built up a network extending into most advanced sector countries, the Third World, and even the U.S.S.R. The organization was founded by its current head Aurelio Peccei and other NATO and NATO-backed personnel at a meeting in 1967. It was at this meeting that Peccei first called for the end of the nation-state and the need for a new one-world government used to allocate the scarce resources which would be available in the coming period. In 1972 the Club released its first global model, *Limits to Growth*, which demonstrated the "unsustainability" of complex systems such as modern civilization. The model was later updated by "softer" versions. At the Washington event, Peccei introduced a new book, *Making It Happen*, written by U.S. Club of Rome members for a distinctively American audience.

The closest approximation of a political leader of stature was Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.) who is a member of the U.S. Association for the Club of Rome. Other Club of Rome leaders and associates present were Donald Lesh, Gerald Barney, Elliot Richardson, and Russell W. Peterson.

Kissinger's protégé, Secretary of State Alexander Haig, had planned to send former Kissinger National Security Council staffer Hormats as his representative to the conference, but under pressure from *EIR* reporters in State Department briefings and a widely-distributed *Open Letter to President Reagan* which calls on the President to "disassociate the U.S. government from the death lobby," the DOS plan appears to have been modified. First the State Department announced that Hormats would speak only "as an individual." The day before the conference, "due to a conflict in his schedule," Hormats was removed altogether, and Paul Balabanis from State's Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, was announced as Hormat's stand-in. Balabanis, notice-

ably nervous as he addressed the gathering, read non-committal statements from a prepared text: "I do want, however, to disclaim that I am speaking for the administration. . . . I am talking on a personal basis. . . . To be frank, administration policies in international environmental areas are still a long way from settled."

Nevertheless, Gerald Barney, principal author of the Carter administration's *Global 2000 Report*—which calls for the elimination of a third of the world's population by the turn of the century—assured the 400-500 participants that "Fortunately, Reagan has recognized the importance of the Club of Rome approach," adding that the President has requested that the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, Alan Hill—with whom Barney works closely—develop an economic forecasting capability for the government along Club of Rome lines.

The conference was haunted by the spectre of its chief opponent, *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche. The Club of Rome's law firm, Asher and Schwartz, sent LaRouche a letter of warning of the legal ramifications should his representatives make an appearance.

Extensive security precautions were in effect, including policemen with guard dogs, and ground rules for conference "discussion" limited questions to 30 seconds long. No statements could be made from the audience. The National Democratic Policy Committee, whose advisory board LaRouche chairs, and a leader from the Washington, D.C. Moral Majority, Rev. Cleveland Sparrow, nevertheless mounted a picket line.

The conference was keyed by Peccei, who is a life-long employee of Fiat's Gianni Agnelli and closely associated with members of the Propaganda-2 Masonic Lodge exposed by the Italian authorities last year. Peccei addressed the gathering once again on the subject of mankind's impotence: "We ourselves have inner limits. . . . The notion of limits to complexity should be part of our cultural patrimony."

Peccei announced the next stage of the Club's activities, *Forum Humanum*, which is organizing young people in their 20's and 30's. James Botkin, who spoke later in the day, was named by Peccei as director of the new project. Botkin noted in discussing his new role that centers had already been established in North America, Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, Tanzania, India, the Guineas, and Indonesia, and a center functions under the Polish martial-law regime. The center, he announced, will coordinate "peace" activities, and will develop "alternate values to the Western model of technological-industrial society."

Participants protested that the Club's program for massive population reduction, resource conservation, and reductions in living standards had hardly been mentioned through the day. Peccei responded that time did not permit every issue to be discussed at every conference.