

# Pugwash created *The Day After*

by Robert Gallagher

Frank Barnaby and Joseph Rotblat of the Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs organized in 1982 the propaganda hoax that a nuclear war between the United States and the Soviet Union would result in dust and smoke blanketing the Northern Hemisphere that would block out the sun, plunge temperatures 30 degrees centigrade and prevent photosynthesis—a “nuclear winter” threatening the extinction of man and other vertebrates.

Barnaby is the former director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and former executive secretary of Pugwash. Rotblat, a close associate of the late Lord Bertrand Russell, is a Pugwash founder and was its secretary general from 1957 to 1973. Together they led a “study” entitled *Nuclear War: Its Aftermath*, that first asserted—without scientific basis—the “nuclear winter” thesis. Two Pugwash environmentalists, Paul J. Crutzen and John W. Birks, slapped together every piece of information they could find to make the case that a nuclear exchange would set off firestorms in cities and forests. (See accompanying article.) The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences published the study in a special 100-page double issue of its environmentalist journal, *Ambio*.

Other participants in this project included:

**Evgeni I. Chazov**, Soviet deputy minister of health, personal physician of the late Leonid Brezhnev;

**M. E. Vartanian**, deputy director of the Institute of Psychiatry of the Soviet Academy of Medical Sciences;

**William Arkin** of the Washington, D.C. Institute for Policy Studies (IPS), who leaked to the European “peace movement” a Pentagon map showing the deployment sites for the U.S. “Euromissiles”;

**Frank von Hippel**, then chairman of the Federation of American Scientists;

**Howard W. Hjort**, an adviser to the Carter-Mondale administration on agriculture;

**George M. Woodwell** of the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory who later participated in the Sagan-Ehrlich “World After Nuclear War” conference;

**Yves Laulan**, chief economist of Société Générale.

The Soviet Academy of Sciences joined the Pugwash

propaganda drive and held a Moscow conference on the same theme May 17-19, 1983. This was purely for Western consumption, of course; the Soviet Union itself maintains an extensive civil defense program and nuclear war-fighting doctrine.

Following the release of the Pugwash report, the entire U.S. and West European zero-growth, anti-nuclear lobby began to promote **Carl Sagan** and **Paul Ehrlich** as the figureheads for an American version of the study, and launched a two-day conference, “The World After Nuclear War,” in Washington, D.C., Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 1983. The conference steering committee included Sagan, Ehrlich, Woodwell; **Russell W. Peterson**, President, National Audubon Society; and **Patricia J. Scharlin**, Director, Sierra Club International Earthcare Center. Funding for the conference came from the Rockefeller Family Fund, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Mott Fund, and others.

Other conference sponsors included the principal organizations of the U.S. “genocide lobby.” These groups have all sought a reduction of the world’s population even greater than the two billion that Sagan and Ehrlich assert would die in a nuclear war or its immediate aftermath: Common Cause, Environmental Defense Fund, Federation of American Scientists, Friends of the Earth, Natural Resources Defense Council, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Sierra Club, Union of Concerned Scientists, Canadian Nature Federation, Environmental Policy Institute, Environment Liaison Centre, Global Tomorrow Coalition, National Wildlife Federation, World Resources Institute, Zero Population Growth.

Rotblat, Freeman Dyson of Princeton, Richard Garwin of IBM, Bernard Feld and Philip Morrison of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and other opponents of development of anti-ballistic missile systems and civil defense also advised Sagan in the preparation of the public relations blitz launched alongside the conference. Garwin and others in the U.S. Pugwash network advised the Office of Technology Assessment of the U.S. Congress in a study, “The Effects of Nuclear War,” that served as the basis for the script of the ABC-TV scare show, *The Day After*.

Soviet scientists and Pugwash attempted to make the “nuclear winter” fiction the center of attention at the Third International Conference on Nuclear War at Erice, Sicily, Aug. 19-23, 1983. However, Dr. Edward Teller and other scientists from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory dominated its deliberations in a debate with Soviet representative Evgeni Velikhov and others over the development of ABM systems based on lasers and other directed energy beam technologies. After Garwin attempted to sabotage Teller’s intervention, former U.S. Atomic Energy commissioner, biologist Dixy Lee Ray, attacked him as a “traitor.” Velikhov later repudiated the communiqué he had signed with Teller at Erice, committing the U.S.S.R. to conduct joint studies with Western scientists on the feasibility of beam-weapon defense.