

Battle over Nazi euthanasia policies erupts in Western Europe

by Mark Burdman and Lotta-Stina Thronell

Voices have been raised across Europe, during the first weeks of 1986, against the Nazi-modeled murder policy known as "euthanasia." These voices are being raised not a moment too soon. Under the banner of the continentwide "Right to Die" movement, and with the encouragement of the European insurance and reinsurance cartels, crimes against humanity equal to those for which Nazi criminals were hung at Nuremberg, are beginning to become the policies of leading institutions and governments.

The campaign against euthanasia has been led by two organizations founded by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the Club of Life and the Schiller Institute. The Schiller Institute's Nuremberg Commission, founded on Nov. 20, 1985 in Nuremberg, West Germany, proposed to establish a new Nuremberg Tribunal, which would try, for crimes against humanity, the advocates of "the euthanasia campaign in the industrialized countries, modeled on the 'mercy killing' campaign of the Nazis, which is targeting the old and sick people in our societies. What started with a campaign for the dubious 'right to die' has long since become a campaign for the 'duty to die' (Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm) for the old and sick, whose medical treatment is considered not 'cost-effective.'"

The key flashpoint today is Holland, where the Law and Justice Commission of the Parliament was scheduled on March 3 to resume a national debate on whether or not euthanasia is to be legalized. In Holland, a nation that had a national resistance against the Nazis during World War II and which treated its own domestic Nazi-collaborators (the infamous NSB) extremely harshly, the official Dutch Medical Association is, today, advocating that *children as young as eight be allowed to decide, even against the wishes of their parents, whether a doctor should take their lives or not.* A Socialist parliamentarian, Ms. Haasberger, has put forward an amendment to pro-euthanasia legislation, establishing the age of permissible euthanasia-on-demand as 12; the only difference between herself and many members of the Dutch Liberal Party, is that the latter want parental consent for this murder, while she insists that it can transpire *without* parental consent. This kind of criminality is being hailed by Dutch liberals and Gnostics as "humanist," the fulfillment of Christ's teaching, "Love thy neighbor"!

The second flashpoint is West Germany, where a heated controversy has broken out surrounding the upcoming trial of Dr. Julius Hackethal, who boasts of having poisoned terminally ill patients, and who commands a widespread cult following among degenerate liberal layers. Hackethal is accused of having violated the laws of the Federal Republic, by aiding and abetting the death of patients, in cases of "death upon request."

But as economies collapse throughout Europe, as insurance cartels hold countries hostage to their demands that health-care payments be slashed, and as the spread of the lethal, incurable disease AIDS across the continent is being exploited by the Death Lobby to legitimize euthanasia, these "flashpoints" could soon evolve into the future for all of Europe. In Spain, for example, the Pro-Life Youth organization put out a dossier in January of this year, claiming that there have been "300,000 clandestine cases of euthanasia" in Spain alone over recent years. In Spain, the legal case in Bilbao, over whether or not a deformed child should be killed, is becoming the center of a similar controversy.

Nazi economics

The most stunning attack to date on the euthanasia movement was made Feb. 23 by Dr. Karsten Vilmar, who emphasized that the "cost-cutting" mentality behind the euthanasia movement could soon lead to calls for killing off pensioners, as the Nazis did. Dr. Vilmar heads the German Doctors' Association, the most important medical association in the Federal Republic, and is officially linked to the government. It issues licenses to doctors, and carries out other necessary functions on behalf of the German federal authorities.

Vilmar's statements were reported in *Bild am Sonntag*, the mass-circulation weekly, in an article headlined, "Doctors' President Attacks Hackethal's Death-Help," with the sub-heading, "Should we give our pensioners a death-injection?" He said: "If active death-help were legalized among us, what would come next would be death-injections, for the solution of the pension problem. . . . Yes, we have already, in the beginning of life, with abortion on social grounds, legalized murder. The next step would be for a social-murder for pensioners who are sick and who no longer have a long

life-expectancy. That would be economical, because it would relieve the pressure on pensions. . . . We must rather recognize what path we are taking, if we don't make active death-help punishable for a doctor. Euthanasia, in the 'Third Reich,' was indeed also introduced and prepared, with the so-called right of mercy-killing. It is simply not tolerable for us to come to the point, that human beings can be put to sleep like animals, if life is no longer worth living."

With somewhat less national publicity, similar arguments have been heard in Holland. Internally, the situation is more desperate for the anti-euthanasia forces, as it is estimated that between 60% and 90% of the population is supporting euthanasia legalization. The official medical association enthusiastically supports euthanasia, even for children. As Dr. P. V. Admiraal, the country's most vocal euthanasia enthusiast, has boasted, in Holland there are not the same compunctions against using the word "euthanasia," as there are in Germany, because of Germany's Nazi past.

Nonetheless, a professor at the University of Nijmegen, Mrs. Dessaur, has been writing articles in national newspapers and magazines since January, warning that a "Nazi syndrome" is developing in Holland. She is warning that the "misuse of medicine can be extended to children, and then others," one of her supporters reports.

One of her co-thinkers in the Christian Democratic Party (CDA) told *EIR* on Feb. 26: "Once you start creating the



March of Dimes/Birth Defects Foundation

It used to be that a handicapped child would be given medical treatment. Now, the death lobby offers the youngster a "choice": euthanasia.

possibilities for legalized euthanasia, and then start talking about 8-year-olds, or 12-year-olds, and euthanasia, then you create the possibility of euthanasia for others, and then still others. Once you start with the terminally ill, then, before you know it, it's the next group, and then we begin repeating what happened with the Nazis."

The fiendish Dr. Admiraal was furiously denounced for his Nazi economic views, when he arrived in Stockholm, Sweden during the weekend of Feb. 14-16 for a series of public and private meetings. On Feb. 14, the leaders of Sweden's two umbrella organizations for handicapped groups issued a declaration attacking euthanasia, at a Stockholm press conference. During the ensuing question and answer period, they told reporters that the activities of Admiraal and his Swedish co-thinker, Berit Hedeby, were "fascist," that the evil grew out of cost-cutting measures in health care. On the next day, the leaders of these organizations joined with the Club of Life and other individuals and organizations in the Stockholm area, to demonstrate at the Peoples' House in Stockholm, where Admiraal was appearing.

During a private meeting with 15 demoralized supporters Feb. 16, Dr. Admiraal bitterly complained that he had never expected to see people in wheelchairs demonstrating against him. "Sweden is at least eight years behind Holland on the euthanasia question," he whined.

Throughout that weekend, Swedish television, which had earlier in the week featured Admiraal describing how patients were killed by himself and 200 collaborators in Holland, showed film-footage of the anti-Admiraal demonstrations. The demonstrations were also covered prominently in the Dutch daily *Reformatisch Dagblad* on Feb. 20, and on Danish television.

In Sweden, anti-euthanasia activists have been remoralized by the activities against Admiraal, Hedeby, et al. conducted by the Club of Life and the handicapped associations. On Feb. 15, the daily *Dagens Nyheter*, which had up to that point been giving regular coverage to the Death Lobby's euthanasia arguments, ran an article, co-signed by 27 medical professionals and priests, comparing modern-day advocates of euthanasia to the Nazis. Under the headline, "We Don't Want to Kill," the signers attacked "the forces that work for legalization of death-help, who give a false picture of humanism and liberalism." "Death-help," they stressed, attempts "to do away with problems by killing pain and dying." They provided historical examples, which prove that "a society turns fascist, when the sanctity of life has been put aside by institutions for death-help." The signers concluded, "We advise all in hospital care to take a stand against active euthanasia."

During the week of Feb. 24, a denunciation against euthanasia was made by Swedish Vice Minister Health Minister Bengt Lindquist, a Social Democrat. Himself blind and an activist in the handicapped organizations, Lindquist de-

clared, "Active euthanasia is to me totally inconceivable. All that we have as human beings, our experiences, should of course be used in the service of life. That is our main task. To me, it would be a totally impossible ethical conflict, and also something hard to contemplate, to help people to death."

'A crime in all cases'

Some among the harshest denunciations of euthanasia have come from Spain, where liberal-KGB elements in the media have been vigorously promoting "mercy-killing" in recent months.

On Feb. 11, the conservative daily *ABC* counterattacked, with a lead editorial bitterly denouncing the Ovidio television network, for a show whose purpose, charged *ABC*, was to "initiate the defense of euthanasia," and to "introduce euthanasia into the legal system," through broadcasting techniques that are "subliminal," and which "place the spectator in a dialectic of doubt, by raising all the pros and cons." The paper commented that advocacy of euthanasia was a reflection of "depravity, cynicism, and barbarism." "Euthanasia is always the hedonistic commodity transformed into crime. . . . Euthanasia doesn't belong to the legal system of any democratic country. Euthanasia, on the contrary, is a contradiction of medical deontology. Euthanasia is a crime in all cases, even if called for by parents, children, relations, society."

On Jan. 29, *ABC* published statements by Dr. Gonzalo Herranz, the President of Spain's Central Commission for Deontology of the Collegial Medical Organization. "The Hippocratic oath forbids a doctor from practicing or collaborating in euthanasia," Dr. Herranz declared. He attacked those advocating terminating the life of a 10-month-old handicapped baby in Bilbao, for threatening to "open a terrible precedent in the respect of human life. . . . The problem of euthanasia of deformed children has become current in many countries; the medical professional recognizes that life holds an intangible value, even with its limitation and suffering. We cannot accept as normal the obviously criminal conduct that permits the elimination of those who are found bothersome. In medicine, we make a fundamental commitment to respect life." Doctors, he insisted, should "never, under any circumstances, and under any pressure," commit euthanasia.

One of the more outspoken institutions against euthanasia is the Vatican. In a statement issued on World Communications Day, in February, Pope John Paul II attacked euthanasia, in the context of a statement on the "hedonistic mentality, according to which life is worth living only when it is healthy, young, and beautiful. It is necessary," he asserted, "that there be formed a public opinion which is sensitive to the absolute value of human life, so that it is recognized as such at all its stages, from conception to death, and in all its forms, even those marked by illness, by physical and spiritual handicaps."

In October 1985, the Milan Catholic daily *L'Avvenire*

had reported statements by top representatives from several of Italy's political parties, attacking euthanasia. Sources in Rome report that the Pope will be planning a major initiative soon, on the euthanasia question.

Dutch medical association advocates killing children

The position of Holland's national medical association (NKMG) was detailed by an official association spokesman, in a discussion with *EIR* on Feb. 26. *EIR* had asked for confirmation of reports in the Dutch press, that the association had come out in support of euthanasia for children as young as eight, and even without the consent of their parents:

"That is not precisely true. The correct way to characterize our position," he said, "is that you cannot make a clearcut statement about lifetimes. There are children who are 13, 14, 15 years old, and they are very prudent. They give their own opinions. On the other hand, you have children of 19 and 20, who are very naive. Every doctor, therefore, in our view, has to make his own determination. Because children are legally *not* permitted to decide for themselves in such situations, the doctor, legally, has to ask the parents what they think, but, in our view, the doctor must also listen to the child, independently.

"The doctor has to listen very carefully to the child, and if the opinion of the parents is actually in the interests of the child, or whether this opinion is only their own emotions that are dictating what they decide. What if the child, of 10 years, suffers very, very hard, and he wants to die, but the parents have a guilty conscience, and say no? Our view is that the doctor has to do what his conscience prescribes to the child."

When it was countered, that this position represents a crime against humanity, he responded, "If you think that, that's your opinion." When it was pointed out, that this attitude violates all the beliefs of Western civilization, he said, "I don't think so, that's your opinion. There are Ten Commandments. One says, 'Thou Shalt Not Kill.' But there is also the idea, 'Love Thy Neighbor.' Why not let a person die, when he wants it?"

Even if the patient is 10 years old, *EIR* asked? "Yes," he replied. Did the medical association actually believe a 10-year-old could competently decide on matters of life and death? "If you don't think so, that's your opinion."