
Profile: Thomas Pickering

Malthusian named to U.S. post in India

by Lydia Cherry

Indian and U.S. press outlets report that Thomas Pickering, one of the top architects of malthusian anti-technology policy, and now U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, will become the new U.S. ambassador to India. The *New York Times* acknowledged that Pickering is a heavy hitter for the post, but added that the appointment "would place him at the center of what may be the next focus of nuclear non-proliferation efforts by the United States." In recent testimony, the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wisc.), used India to argue for a U.S. policy of using military strikes to stop Third World countries from developing nuclear weapons. He noted that India's defense minister, when asked what lessons one should draw from the Gulf war, had responded: "Don't fight the United States unless you have nuclear weapons."

Pickering was educated at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, the oldest graduate school of diplomacy in the United States and a major source for recruiting U.S. intelligence operatives who work under diplomatic cover. He holds the rank of career ambassador, the highest in the Foreign Service. One of the more striking characteristics of the Bush administration is the extent to which top foreign policy posts are staffed either by career CIA or career State Department intelligence officials with long-standing ties to the CIA. Pickering is no exception.

In his various assignments since the 1970s, Pickering has been on the ground floor of the drafting and experimental phases of the policies that have come to be known as the hallmark of George Bush's "new world order"—technological apartheid and depopulation. During 1973-74, he was executive secretary in the U.S. Department of State and a special assistant to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. In 1974, while doubling as the President's National Security Adviser, Kissinger supervised "National Security Study Memorandum 200: Implications of Worldwide Population Growth for U.S. Security and Overseas Interests." The primary concern of this report, recently declassified, was that the continued population growth of the "less developed countries" would increase the political, economic, and military power of several of these states, at the expense of the power of the Anglo-American oligarchy. Thirteen countries were targeted as such

threats—India at the top of the list.

During the late 1970s, Pickering became assistant secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, and oversaw the drafting of the notorious *Global 2000* report. One of the group working under Pickering, Thomas Ferguson, Latin American case officer for the State Department's Office of Population Affairs, perhaps best summed up the thinking of the *Global 2000* report: "We will go into a country and say, here is your goddamn development plan. Throw it out the window. Start looking at the size of your population and figure out what must be done to reduce it." Ferguson said in an interview in 1981, "If you don't like that, if you don't want to choose to do it through planning, then you'll have an El Salvador or an Iran, or worse, a Cambodia."

The Iran-Contra connection

In 1983, Pickering was named ambassador to El Salvador, a country which some researchers believe was picked for a conscious depopulation project of unending wars. In 1985, he was shifted to Israel where he remained until he was selected for the plum post of permanent representative of the United States to the United Nations in 1989. As has been documented in the context of hearings on the Iran-Contra scandal, El Salvador was a base of operations to illegally supply the Contras. Israel was the go-between for the U.S. government to get the hostages out of Iran. By virtue of Pickering's position, he had to be privy to the various negotiations surrounding these actions. He kept his mouth shut during the entire Iran-Contra affair.

At the United Nations, Pickering oversaw the tightening of Anglo-American control over the world body. Speaking Nov. 11, 1989, the ambassador noted some of the directions in which the U.N. must move. He said he saw the environmental question, "aggravated by population growth," as one of the key issues in which the U.N. must take the lead. In the Gulf war, Pickering played a key role in forging the "new world order" coalition against Iraq, putting tremendous pressure on dissenting nations to support the sanctions and military actions. In early Fall 1991, prior to the opening of the U.N. General Assembly, Pickering convened all the ambassadors from around the world to tell them what would please and what would displease the new head of the unipolar world. The list of priorities included the demand that the Zionism Is Racism resolution be repealed—which by mid-December was accomplished. Iraq was to remain isolated, the ambassadors were told.

In April 1991, Pickering proudly characterized as a "precedent," the fact that the U.N., under his direction, demanded that Iraq destroy stocks, research facilities, and materials which could be used to build chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons. It was made clear that Iraq was to not only have no sovereignty, but also no fertilizer, pharmaceuticals, or advanced energy systems; that it was to continue to starve and die of disease.