

# Trilats plan 'fascism with a human face'

by Scott Thompson

The Trilateral Commission, which was called the "club for people who run the world anyway" by the April 25 *Washington Post*, met behind closed doors in Lisbon, Portugal on April 25-27. One of the European Trilateral Commission members told *EIR* immediately prior to the meeting, "A lot of people want to renew the discussion we first opened up with *The Crisis of Democracy* book of Huntington-Crozier in 1975. Maybe that debate should be re-opened today. It involves this whole matter of 'governability.'" The Trilateralist described how the Jeffrey Sachs-style International Monetary Fund "shock therapy" policy being applied to the East, as the case of Poland has shown, creates a crisis of governability as people rebel against austerity.

At the Trilateral meeting on May 30-31, 1975 in Kyoto, Japan, a task force assembled by then-Trilateral director Zbigniew Brzezinski, and led by Samuel Huntington of Harvard, introduced the findings of a commission study group entitled *The Crisis of Democracy: Report on the Governability of Democracies to the Trilateral Commission*. Huntington argued that democracy meant that too many people, particularly among the black and working population, were expecting too much improvement in their living standards when the United States could not afford it. Under such conditions, Huntington said, "There are also potentially desirable limits to the indefinite extension of political democracy."

This pretense for an argument against mob rule is nothing but a call for fascism, to enforce austerity as living standards decline.

When Huntington's book appeared, other Trilateral Commission members, including Leonard Woodcock, Robert V. Roosa, and Robert McNamara, founded the Initiatives Committee for National Economic Planning in 1975. In its magazine *Challenge*, ICNEP published an article entitled "The Coming Corporatism." The article endorsed corporatism, saying: "Let us not mince words, corporatism is fascism with a human face."

One day after the conclusion of the Trilateral Commission meeting on April 28, there was a commentary in the London *Daily Telegraph* by Oxford University Professor of Modern History Norman Stone entitled "Coming Next on the Cards—Fascism With a Human Face." The *Daily Telegraph* is owned by the Hollinger Corp., whose board has many top

Trilateralists, including Hollinger chairman Conrad Black.

Questioned about the renewed discussion of his ideas by members of the Trilateral Commission, Huntington told a journalist that because of the global economic collapse, the Trilateral world was highly factionalized. As a result, Huntington said, "It makes a lot of sense. The book is basically a roadmap for how to make decisions, and decision-making has broken down. I would not be surprised to learn that it is an idea whose time has come."

## Free enterprise and reduced sovereignty

Otto Graf von Lambsdorff, Paul Volcker, and Akio Morita, respectively the European, North American, and Japanese chairmen of the Trilateral Commission, issued a final statement from the Lisbon meeting on April 27. The statement read: "We met as Trilateral cooperation faces new challenges with the disappearance of the military threat from the Soviet Union."

Prior to the meeting, a European Trilateralist had expressed to *EIR* that there were "cracks and fissures" in the Trilateral world. "Because of the financial crisis," he said, "the means to have a policy are less apparent in 1992 than they were in the previous years. Germany, after all, was providing 60-70% of the western lending to the East, but now Germany is concerned with local difficulties. . . . There is also the Japanese situation, of course. Up to the last year, Japan was the milk cow of the world."

The final communiqué, although showing more unanimity than expected, offers nothing more than Adam Smith-style "free trade" solutions for this global economic collapse: "Another vital and immediate challenge on the global agenda is the successful completion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, for which the Trilateral countries are inescapably responsible. . . . Regional arrangements [e.g., the North American Free Trade Agreement] can usefully supplement global progress and serve important regional purposes. In the absence of global progress, they carry greater risks."

New attacks on national sovereignty were also plotted by the Trilateralists, through security issues. The chairmen's statement called for strengthening the United Nations' role: "Although the military threat of the ex-Soviet Union has disappeared, the world is far from free of serious conflict. The post-Cold War era offers important opportunities and needs to strengthen collective security capabilities through the United Nations and various regional organizations."

On refugees, the statement read: "The new international setting includes many issues that go beyond a world of traditional nation-states. Migration and refugee challenges are part of this new agenda on which we focused in Lisbon. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, who participated in our discussions, faces daunting challenges; and here too we urge our governments to provide needed support in a timely fashion."