

This is the moment; we should not lose it.”

The current policy of the Salinas government to wipe out national producers is no accident, but is “deliberate, and ordered by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund,” he said. Farmers are not alone in this. The other productive sectors of the country, such as small and medium-sized businessmen, suffer the same problems. I therefore invite them to join the movement. The arrears of the agricultural sector are only one-fifth of the overdue debts which businessmen owe the banks, he added.

On Sept. 6 both *Excélsior* and *La Jornada* carried articles dedicated exclusively to the Sonora Forum’s proposals on the debt: that the Bank of Mexico must issue a “rural bond,” redeemable in 25 years and with interest rates of 2-3%. This is the way to convert farm debt into new credits to revive the sector, the Sonora group argues. The group also proposes, these papers reported, that such a measure be combined with the creation of an interdisciplinary commission between the federal government and the farmers, to determine which part of the debt is legitimate and which illegitimate, because of fraud or speculative policies.

Vizcarra’s insistence that change in national policy was necessary and urgent was the central theme of a press conference given by the FPPR on Sept. 8 in Ciudad Obregón, Sonora, also widely covered by local newspapers, radio, and television. “The banks and the government are in a perverse lockstep,” said Vizcarra, in response to a question as to how the FPPR views the authorities’ attitude toward the growers’ demands.

In a telephone interview with this correspondent, Vizcarra had the following to say about the Jalisco governor’s apparent reversal: “In the Guadalajara National Assembly, the growers from each state described in detail how their respective governors, one by one, had failed to win aid for their agricultural constituencies. It is clear that the government wants the governors to serve as intermediaries with the protesters, to keep them separate, state by state and case by case.” Our job, he stressed, is to “break this divide-and-conquer strategy.”

Vizcarra also confirmed that the FPPR’s telephones in Ciudad Obregón were ringing off their hooks with calls from farmers from around the country who want to join the national movement. One of the largest tractorcades will be organized in Ciudad Obregón on Sept. 15.

The mobilization by Mexico’s growers has also spread beyond national borders. The Venezuelan daily *Reporte de la Economía* published an article on Sept. 5, under the title “Mexico Also Cries,” on the FPPR’s debt moratorium proposal, which was distributed in a press release issued by Venezuela’s Agriculture Ministry. That same day, the daily *2001* not only reported the moratorium proposal, but also emphasized that the Mexican agricultural crisis “has forced producers to question the viability of a liberal economic model such as that in Venezuela.”

Club of Rome

Twenty-five years of malthusian fraud

by Mark Burdman

Among 25th anniversary events being commemorated this year is one that is more cause for mourning than joy. In 1968, the Club of Rome, publisher of the fraudulent *Limits to Growth* report that launched the modern-day neo-malthusian movement, was created. Now, according to an announcement made by Club of Rome President Ricardo Diez-Hochleitner on Sept. 4, the club’s “jubilee year” will be celebrated at a conference in Hanover, Germany, from Dec. 1-3.

Diez-Hochleitner announced this during the concluding session of this year’s “Dialogue Congress” of the annual Alpach European Forum, held in the Tyrolean village of Alpach in Austria. The theme of the four-day event was “The Emerging Europe – Dialogue with the Iberian States.” Diez-Hochleitner plays a significant role in Spanish politics, having served as state secretary for education, and currently holding the position of editor of the “trend-setting” Madrid daily *El País*. His son, Ricardo Diez-Hochleitner Rodríguez, is director general for technical coordination of European Community affairs in the Spanish Ministry of State for European Communities.

The barely disguised message of Diez-Hochleitner Sr.’s presentation, was that the Club of Rome must be in a position to steer policy in European governments and institutions during the remaining part of this decade, in order to impose an agenda of “sustainable development,” “demographic stabilization” in the countries of the South, “education reform,” and the like. “It is with this in mind that the Club of Rome has convened, end of this year in Hanover, a conference called *Vision Europe 2020*, in order to debate the new role and responsibilities of Europe in the world of tomorrow, including aspects of governance, migration, education, employment and values, as well as alternative strategies for economic and social development.”

The list of speakers invited to the Hanover gathering includes former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachov, Russia’s chief International Monetary Fund “economic reform” spokesman Yegor Gaidar, Hungarian President Arpad Goncz, former U.S. National Security Adviser Zbigniew

Brzezinski, Spanish Prime Minister Felipe González, Nobel Prize winner Ilya Prigogine, Lower Saxony (Germany) Gov. Gerhard Schroeder, Club of Rome founder and honorary president Dr. Alexander King of Great Britain, and various leading figures from European think tanks, insurance companies, multinational corporations, politics, and finance. Panel themes are to include “The New Role of Europe in the World”; “Challenges for Mankind: Immigrant and Emigration Movements—The Significance of Work in Europe 2020—Education and European Values;” and “A Just Well-Being for All in Europe 2020: New Forms of Ecological Activity—Strategies for Transformation of the Market and Financial System.”

Demographic explosions and stabilizations

While some among these themes may sound quite inoffensive, the agenda is subsumed by the axiomatic neo-malthusian approach of the Club of Rome. This world view was clearly evident in Diez-Hochleitner’s Alpbach speech, “Europe’s Future—Migration and Development.” “At present, the future of Europe is in the hands of a very small percentage of the world’s population,” he said. “The Maghreb countries alone, for example, will reach in 20 more years a similar population in numbers than the total population of the inhabitants of the present European Community.”

Nowhere was any evidence presented for this alarming proposition. In reality, the contention is absurd, a purely concocted fantasy put forward to justify certain conclusions. His figures exceed even the most exorbitant projections of various population control organizations for the Maghreb, projections which themselves have been called into question by leading demographers in Europe. Furthermore, under anticipated conditions of social, political, and economic unrest in North Africa, exacerbated precisely by the policies of the Club of Rome and its allies in the International Monetary Fund, the Maghreb could even achieve a disastrous state of zero population growth, or what Diez-Hochleitner euphemistically labels “demographic stabilization,” as we will see below.

Diez-Hochleitner went on: “The task now, therefore, is immensely bigger and more difficult compared with the past, not only in view of the ongoing *demographic explosion* in less developed countries . . . but mainly due to the present wide-embracing political and economic crisis. . . . Migration of workers, from one country to another, has been always a central characteristic of the global economic system, with over 20 million people and uncounted family members. In addition, it [can] be a key element in regulating national population trends for many less developed countries. However, in present times of economic recession, migration tends to become massive and chaotic, generating xenophobia and political extremism, due to the excuse of competition for space, resources and jobs if adequate living conditions are not ensured. . . . [A] long-term solution of the mixed blessing of

migration calls for restructuring the economic relations with labor-intensive developing countries and to contribute to their *demographic stabilization*. This can be achieved mainly through endogenous development thanks to massive foreign investment, combined with training of human resources and women’s education, to *curb demographic explosion*, and to stop the scenario of increased unemployed and underemployed economic refugees settled in more developed countries” (emphasis added).

Elsewhere in his speech, Diez-Hochleitner stressed such malthusian buzzwords as “sustainable development,” and clothed calls for a slave labor-based economy in such pompous verbiage as: “Traditional employment policies need also a profound reconsideration, starting with the by-now-utopian principle of full employment, which has become a structural-ly impossible goal.”

Post-industrial New Age ‘education’

Perhaps most insidious is the Club of Rome’s targeting of youth for its post-industrial goals. At the end of his Alpbach address, Diez-Hochleitner proclaimed, “Since the future belongs to the young, we should try hard to ‘re-enchant’ the European youth, for them to take over and to formulate a vision for *Europe to serve the world*.” (emphasis in original).

This sounds suspiciously like the verbiage used in outcome-based education (OBE) programs in the United States. And, in fact, Diez-Hochleitner privately confesses to be an insider in the international “education reform” movement. He maintains regular contact with the architects of OBE in the United States, through such institutions as the International Council of Education and U.S. Academy of Education, and is writing a book on *Learning for the Future*, which is likely to be published by the Club of Rome in 1994. He is a senior figure in education policy in various other countries. Aside from his position as former Spanish state secretary for education, he was also former state secretary for education in Colombia, a country where he also maintains citizenship.

Diez-Hochleitner’s activities complement the role of Club of Rome honorary president, Dr. Alexander King, who was a key figure in the late 1960s, from his senior position in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris, in designing an earlier “education reform” in Europe. In West Germany, these were known as the “Brandt reforms,” named after Willy Brandt, who pushed them through after becoming chancellor in 1968. The Brandt reforms significantly undermined the traditional emphasis in German schools on classical education. This created a generation of West German students largely divorced from the best parts of German and universal history, and lacking the “immunological” basis to resist the onslaught of the New Age, neo-malthusian values that the Club of Rome pushes. The significant rise of the green ecological movement in West Germany, starting in the late 1960s, can be largely attributed to Alexander King’s activities.