African academy of sciences defends population growth

by Paul Gallagher

The third of the "World Population Conferences" held every 10 years is to occur at Cairo, Egypt in September 1994. Each of these extravaganzas of anti-population frauds and falsehoods parades malthusian "experts" and international financiers, who are committed to stopping and reversing the growth of the endangered human race, representatives of nations, especially Third World nations which are the targets of the anti-population fervor.

Against the 1994 "Third Worldwide Population Conference," there is the possibility of a fight for the principle of the value of human life in God's image, and for the need for continued, *revived* human population growth. To bring about such an honorable battle against the malthusian dominators and overlords of the conference, support must be generated for the dissenting pre-conference report of the African Academy of Sciences. This short report, authored by Prof. J.K. Egunjobi of Nairobi, Kenya, is meek and humble, but blessed and true. It nobly defies the dogma of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Club of Rome, and the sterilization mafia of Johns Hopkins University. The report's key dissenting statement reads: "For Africa, population remains an important resource for development, without which the continent's national resources will remain latent and unexplored." And, it adds, "*infertility* is a major problem."

Previous battles

The first "World Population Conference" in 1974 was keynoted by such so-called humanitarians as John D. Rockefeller, III, and Club of Rome chief Aurelio Peccei, who at that time defended cannibalism as ethical in some situations. It was appropriately held in Bucharest, in Ceausescu's Romania, where even then the birth rate was low and the grim orphanages beckoned many children abandoned after birth. But that conference, unexpectedly, saw a major fight for human life waged by the Vatican and some Third World governments, and spearheaded by Helga Zepp, then a leading associate, now the wife, of U.S. statesman and economist Lyndon LaRouche.

We refer, in brief, to the chronology of that battle leading to the 1994 Cairo World Population Conference. By the time of the Cairo conference, the malthusians will have virtually achieved their catastrophic goals, with the world in economic depression and the suffering populations of Third World and industrial nations alike stagnating, declining, or on the verge of the abyss. Therefore, let the courageous words of the African Academy of Sciences be heard and supported worldwide.

The 1974 Bucharest Conference was the golem of the 1971 "Limits to Growth" report of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Club of Rome, one of the most widely promoted frauds in history. That report (actually a vastly complicated computer model) used the *assumption that no further major technological progress could or would occur,* to forecast that vital resources such as land, water, and energy would be depleted and exhausted by 2025 or so, if human population growth continued. But the hugely popular book *Limits to Growth,* which was based on this study, soft-peddled this "axiom" of zero-technological growth, making it appear that the "worldwide exhaustion of resources" was an inevitable automaton of "nature."

Throughout 1971-73, LaRouche and his political movement fought the "Limits to Growth" report and debated its

Collaborators of Lyndon LaRouche demonstrate at the second U.N. Population Conference in Mexico City in 1984. Against the 1994 "Third Worldwide Population Conference," there is the possibility of a fight for the principle of the value of human life in God's image, and for the need for continued, revived *human population growth.*

authors and proponents on campuses throughout the United States and elsewhere. In one series of Ivy League lectures, attended by thousands of students and professors, LaRouche's associates' questions and exposés from the floor of the forums stymied and stumped the flustered speakers until they began not showing up to speak.

In 1974, Helga Zepp stunned the Bucharest conference by challenging John D. Rockefeller III over his denial of technological progress to the Third World. She explained, as a crucial example, that *fusion energy* breakthroughs could completely redefine all economic resources by providing inexhaustible nuclear electrical energy. Other delegations took heart, and the Bucharest conference *did not* adopt population reduction goals, as Rockefeller et al. wanted.

Secretly, that same year, the U.S. National Security Council under Henry Kissinger adopted as U.S. policy National Security Study Memorandum 200 (released to the public only in 1991), *identifying the population growth of 13 large Third World nations as a national security threat to the United States,* to be met by contraception and sterilization programs.

In 1983, LaRouche's movement published the paperback *There Are No Limits to Growth* in English and German, and later in French and other languages. This book *proved* that "natural" resources were fixed *only for stagnating or declining technology,* but were redefined, improved, and vastly expanded by technological progress—the ingenuity of the very human beings the malthusians seek to reduce.

Much later, in 1990, it was acknowledged that the zero-technological progress axiom of the "Limits to Growth" report made the whole report a fraud, in a (polite but accurate) report by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. (By that time, *Limits to Growth* had puffed up the Club of Rome into a worldwide hydra of heads of governments, think-tanks, and intellectuals of all stripes.) LaRouche, while not mentioned, was implicitly acknowledged correct about *Limits to Growth;* he had then been a political prisoner for two years.

A 'Joint Statement'

In 1993, the British Royal Society, along with the same U.S. National Academy of Sciences, revived the very same fraud for the Cairo conference, whose objective is nothing less than *forced population reduction goals as a condition for aid and loans to all nations.*

The vehicle this time was the "Joint Statement on Population by the World's Scientific Academies," heavily publicized worldwide since it was adopted at a New Delhi conference Oct. 24-27, 1993. No longer merely the prestige of financiers, "elder statesmen," and university experts and intellectuals, the imprimatur of science itself is claimed for the iron necessity that what remains of human population growth must end by the first part of the next century.

While presented as the work of 56 national scientific academies, the Joint Statement resulted from an Anglo-American conspiracy. As the statement's preface admits, first the British Royal Society and U.S. NAS met, in London of course. Then, they had a second meeting with the addition of the oligarchical Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

Both meetings issued statements full of dignified and measured hysteria about the threat of degradation, poverty, and "irreversible" landslides of catastrophes brought on by human procreation. Then, with the agenda firmly set, a third meeting brought in the Indian Academy of Sciences, to take the job of hosts for the New Delhi general meeting where the "Joint Statement" was signed.

This Joint Statement repeats the *Limits to Growth* fraud of assuming, axiomatically, that no technological breakthroughs—such as fusion energy, laser-industrial and laser-chemical processes, hydroponic agriculture, or space biotechnologies—are available to the human species: "The growth of population over the last half-century was for a time matched by similar worldwide increases in utilizable resources. However, in the last decade food production from both land and sea has declined relative to population growth. The area of agricultural land has shrunk [with] reduced possibilities of irrigation. The availability of water is already a constraint." (Apparently these scientists have discovered that agricultural land "set-aside" decrees of various governments are an act of God.)

Whereas the 1971 *Limits to Growth* forecast prospectively that resource exhaustion would be inevitable, the 1993 Joint Statement claims retrospectively that it *was* inevitable. Both cover up their fraudulent axioms: zero-technological progress; the "inevitability" of enforced policies which block use of land, water, and energy resources, or stop their development. This is the fraud exposed and *acknowledged* to exist in the *Limits to Growth*.

The Joint Statement contains an even greater malthusian fraud: "Poverty and lack of economic opportunities stimulate faster population growth"; an attempt to claim that population reduction will be associated with a better life for the survivors.

Evidence of history

This flies in the face of the evidence of human history at least since the Greek Classical period: periods of rapid, sustained population growth are always associated with renaissances, periods of scientific and cultural advance; and, they are associated with high and rising living standards. The greatest sustained population increase in human history—the uninterrupted thirteenfold increase in world population from 1450-1970—clearly was caused by the spread of the European Golden Renaissance. Thus today, the areas of highest living standards in the world are the areas of *highest population density*, particularly Europe.

Clearly, the Joint Statement is repeating popular media falsehoods and frauds, to the shame of the scientific academies which lent it their credibility.

The falseness of the claim that population reduction improves living standards, should be obvious by considering where population has actually begun to fall in absolute terms: the immiserated countries of the former Soviet Union, nations in Central and East Africa, and the war-ravaged Balkans.

But a new article from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, the world center for programs of voluntary and "conditionality" sterilization, admits that zero population growth is *not* coming from betterment, but immiseration. In the December 1993 *Scientific American*, the school's "coordinator of overseas activities," Bryant Robey, writes: "Fertility rates in developing countries have fallen much more rapidly than they did during the European demographic transition. . . . In fact, fertility declined as many developing countries stagnated or lost ground in the 1980s. The findings despite the notion that 'development is the best contraceptive,' a phrase that originated at the 1974 World Population Conference in Bucharest."

African opposition

Precisely proving the point of Professor Egunjobi and the African Academy of Sciences. Without *greater* population, Africa will not be able to develop. Consider the entire large area below the Sahara Desert as far south as Mozambique and Angola, and stretching across Africa from Djibouti in the east to Dakar in the west. These nations, excepting Nigeria, have population densities in the range of 10-20 persons per square kilometer—one-seventh that of western Europe; 50% less even than that of North America. They lack technological infrastructure such as long-range or high-speed railways; water control and management projects; electrical power per capita of even one-tenth that of the United States; roads, sanitation systems, and hospitals. In many of these nations—wracked by war, international lenders' usury, drought, and the price collapse of cash crops—population is stagnating and may be falling absolutely. Ten million Africans, says the World Health Organization, are now infected with the AIDS virus—2% of the entire continent's population! The African academy insists that "the contribution of the North to Africa's population predicament must be acknowledged in any suggestions."

These nations need this infrastructure—not population reduction. The African academy's crucial point of opposition to the Joint Statement says: "Whether or not the earth is finite will depend on the extent to which science and technology is able to transform the resources available for humanity. There is only one earth—yes; but the potential for transforming it is not necessarily finite."

The African Academy of Sciences concludes that "a special panel on population and development could be set up by the scientific academies." If this panel were opened to the unique competence of Lyndon LaRouche's writings on potential population density, economic science, and the ecology, the onrushing folly of the 1994 Cairo Population Conference could be reversed. LaRouche was recently elected to Russia's International Ecological Academy, the "Academy 100," for precisely these writings.