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## World Population Conference

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# State Dept. pushes malthusian agenda

by Paul Gallagher

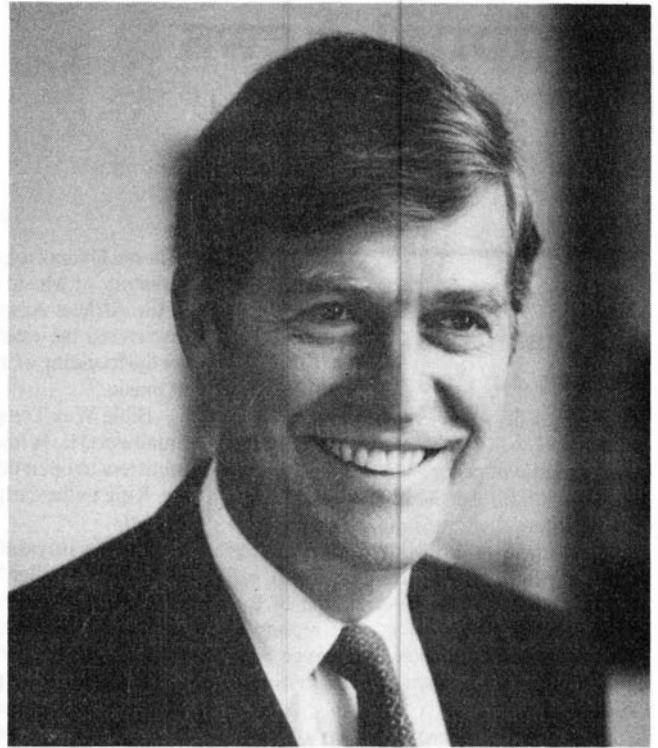
Former lightweight Senator Timothy Wirth (D-Colo.) is now a counsellor at the U.S. State Department. He was chosen, through a Jan. 11 press conference, to announce that the Clinton administration's top "global priority" is now cutting population in Third World countries. Wirth pushed an obvious fraud upon the press on the subject of the world's population, in order to play up the United Nations' September 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, which will be held in Cairo, Egypt. Most media dutifully passed on Wirth's lie that neither human life nor the natural environment could survive the current rate of doubling of the human population.

In fact, the current rate of doubling of world population is measurably slower than the rate humanity survived 25-30 years ago, and slowing further. The objective of the Cairo U.N. conference is to codify conditions on all international aid and credit, to force *all* nations to stop the growth of their populations—in other words, to force worldwide zero population growth between 2025 and 2050.

One would never have guessed such a looming zero-growth potential from Counsellor Wirth's emotional falsifications: "Top priority for everybody are our commitments on population," said Wirth. "The world population is currently at 5.5 billion. If we do nothing, the world's population will double again sometime in the next 35 to 40 years and will move on to 13 to 15 billion people before it is estimated that it will level off. To imagine a world in which the population doubles in this fashion is unfathomable, and clearly does not allow us . . . to maintain the quality of life or respect for individuals . . . nor would it allow us to maintain an environment."

### The truth

Unfathomable! says Counsellor Wirth. In fact, the population of the United States quadrupled in the 50 years from 1800 to 1850; then tripled from 1850 to 1900; then doubled again from 1900 to 1950. The population of Africa, after most of its nations gained their independence in the 1950s, more than doubled between 1960 and 1990. Yet the population density of the United States is still higher than that of all but a few African countries.



*State Department Counsellor Timothy Wirth ignores history when he says that human life cannot survive the current rate of growth of population.*

Nor was Counsellor Wirth telling the truth about the current world population's "rate of doubling." United Nations population statistics have become notoriously unreliable, since revelations in 1990 and 1991 that the U.N. had overstated, by about 20%, the population of some of the biggest Third World nations. But even accepting U.N. figures, the human population doubled (2.7 billion to 5.5 billion) between 1950 and 1993, or 43 years, and the rate is clearly slowing down—it was just under 40 years as of 1970. Measures of fertility (births per woman) have *already* dropped by 40% worldwide since 1970. So even if one were merely—honestly—trying to project a simple trend of the next doubling of human population, it would be over more than 50 years, not Counsellor Wirth's "35 to 40 years."

But there are absolutely no automatic trends in human population growth, any more than giving birth and raising a child to productive maturity are "automatic." *EIR's* July 2, 1993 issue published a cover story demonstrating that the human population could be *falling*—perhaps irreversibly—by early next century, under the onslaught of the malthusian programs and policies that Wirth was speaking for. According to Wirth, the United States will spend much more than even the current \$500 million per year to "provide [a] comprehensive family planning package to every woman in the world." Unfortunately, that was probably the only true statement he made in his press conference.