

Australia Dossier by Bruce Jacobs

The push for Cairo '94 is on

Australia's genocide lobby is doing its best for the U.N. conference, while aiming to depopulate its own continent.

The Australian government is working overtime on behalf of the genocidal U.N. International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in Cairo in September, while a vast propaganda push is under way to reduce Australia's own population from its present 17 million to as low as 6 million. The government's commitment was expressed by Amb. Richard Butler, head of the Australian delegation at the Cairo preparatory conference in New York in April. He told that conference: "This meeting has a central task. We must move beyond aspirations and broad statements of principles and reach an agreement on the terms of a draft document to ensure success in September."

To help "ensure success," the Australian government is sponsoring a variety of inquiries and reports as part of the Cairo buildup. The House of Representatives Standing Committee for Long Term Strategies is sponsoring an "Inquiry into Australia's Population Carrying Capacity," chaired by the president of the ruling Labor Party, Barry Jones. Although nominally inviting submissions from the public (of which 210 have been received) to determine what policy should be, the Jones inquiry's bias is obvious in its "Reference Scenario," set in the year 2045, which the committee is circulating "to assist in focusing people's attention on some of the issues." The "scenario" is a hideous nightmare of devastated nature, pollution, congestion, and overcrowded schools which pupils attend in three shifts per day.

The government has forwarded its official report to Cairo, but that has not

been made public. However, a second government report, "Australia: National Report on Population for the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development," which has been made public, argues the environmentalist line that Australia "has generated the highest rate of mammal extinction on the planet," and that "this is due, at least in part, to the pattern of settlement following European occupation." The report laments that no formal national population policy is yet in place.

Another government report, "Independent Inquiry Report into Population and Development," argues for lower population growth. This report was commissioned when independent Sen. Brian Harradine, the chief public figure opposing population control programs, criticized the 1993-94 budget for tripling the funds for population control from the previous year, and quintupling them over the coming four years, while the country's official development assistance is at an all-time low.

Foreign Minister Gareth Evans responded that the government would appoint "someone with an international reputation who is fully independent and has no axe to grind on these matters" to study the matter and report back. The government chose Prof. Dennis Ahlburg of the University of Minnesota, a longtime consultant for the World Bank and a population control advocate who "found" that "high fertility harms the health of mothers and children," that high populations correlate with low incomes, and that (surprise, surprise) "rapid population growth generally leads to rapid

growth in the demand for housing."

Perhaps the most insane lobbying for slashing population was done under the auspices of the Australian Academy of Sciences in its Population 2040 Conference on April 29, which argued that "the federal government could no longer resist the need for a managed population policy." If action weren't taken now, conference participants argued, then the Australian population could reach 37 million by 2040, resulting in horrible overcrowding and pollution.

Australian Museum paleontologist Dr. Tim Flannery argued that the Australian continent was too "poor in nutrients and energy to support larger animals, including people," and that the carrying capacity for human beings was only 6-12 million, and "probably toward the low end of that range." Although admitting that Australian food production now supported 50-60 million human beings per year, the conference called for putting a cap on the continent's population at 23 million, as its maximum carrying capacity. Conference convenor Prof. Jonathan Stone claimed that opposition to a population policy "was due to a misplaced concern over human rights."

Yet another government body, the newly founded Resource Assessment Commission, has concluded that population is adversely affecting resources.

The private sector, primarily U.N.-linked non-governmental organizations, has also been doing its bit. In 1993, U.N. World Population Day was celebrated by various NGOs at a conference which called for an "urgent inquiry" into the environmental effects of immigration. Australian NGOs attending Cairo as part of the official government team will be the World Wide Fund for Nature and the Family Planning Association.