

extraordinarily, unusually brilliant, a genius type. He worked with us on what he called a projection of mankind. He put out a very big and very interesting project, which in the end we rejected because we did not think the methodology existed to do it. At any rate, Osbekan and Jantsch gave a seminar at the European Summer University at Alpbach in the Tyrol, and Peccei and I went to support them.

This was a very important turning point for the Club of Rome. Several Americans were there who became extremely interested. Eduard Pestel was also there. The Americans were the president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and also Paul Weiss, the physiologist. At dinner that night, we sat at the same table with Josef Klaus, then chancellor of Austria, from the Black Party.

We had a very interesting conversation, and he said: "The things that you are doing are raising enormous interest among my colleagues. Why don't three or four of you come down to Vienna next month and spend a day with my cabinet?" We did, and the people there were rather interested. Peccei went, along with myself, Thiemann, and also Thorkil Kristensen who had just retired from the OECD. He became an official member of the Club of Rome.

By the way, Dzhermen Gvishiani was in Austria at that time, in connection with the negotiations around the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis. Gvishiani came to our meeting.



Pierre Trudeau

We didn't have any political people, no government office holders as members at that time. But this meeting put into our heads the idea of talking to political people. The following year, Peccei and I together or separately saw at least 26 prime ministers and presidents.

You know, the one who gave us the most support was Canada's Pierre Trudeau. We had an extraordinarily interesting meeting in Ottawa.

EIR: How did Pompidou react?

King: He didn't, hardly at all. Giscard did, but only later on, and very considerably, at the 1973 Unesco sessions. Edgar Faure was interested. And after Sicco Mansholt sent them his letter, the French got very interested, but of course, for their own reasons. Mansholt had never read anything from the Club of Rome, not even *Limits to Growth*.

It was a very interesting situation. Take the *Limits to Growth* report. We were at first very unhappy that there was so much discussion of it, because the discussion was based on all the wrong ideas. We didn't have those ideas. No one was apparently able to distinguish between a

report to the Club of Rome and a report by the Club of Rome. We had actually never discussed *zero-growth* as a club when the report appeared. Therefore, to be labeled as proponents of zero-growth very much annoyed us.

We had a very important meeting that year [1971] in France, near Paris, and we agreed very much that the Club of Rome would never try to seek a consensus agreement. The job was catalytic, to start debates. So, many people in the Club disliked the *Limits to Growth*. I personally think it was the best that could be done at the time. It had its faults, but it would have been difficult to better them.

The report did three things: It spotlighted the interconnectedness of problems. If you look at pollution alone, or population growth alone, or economic growth alone, everything seems fine; but if you look at the interconnections, the effect one has on the others, it is different. Second, it started a debate, which echoed all over the world. Third, it started lots of new study. So, we were fully justified in issuing the report, in spite of the errors contained.

The main thing for us, and for Dennis Meadows [*Limits to Growth* co-author], too, was not to make prophecies. It was a Cassandra type of thing. "This is likely to happen if things continued as they are," with the idea that policies could change to prove the forecasts

Who are the members of the Club of Rome?

The Club of Rome, which describes itself as totally structureless except for an 8-man executive committee led by Aurelio Peccei and Alexander King, is limited to 100 members. Those 100 members, however, wield considerable power in major nations, both East and West, and in an assortment of multinational institutions. The following are among those on the Club of Rome's current membership roster.

Bertrand de Jouvenel, president, International Association of Futuribles, Paris, France.

Umberto Colombo, president, National Committee for Nuclear Energy, Rome, Italy.

Arne Engström, director-general, National Food Administration, Sweden.

Thor Heyerdahl, anthropologist, Rome, Italy.

T. Adeoye Lambo, deputy director-general, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland.

Ervin Laszlo, special fellow, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, New York, U.S.A.

M. Robert Lattès, counsel to the board of direc-

wrong. It's different from prophesying, "This is going to happen."

EIR: Was there concern with the "American model," as in Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber's *Le Défi Américain* [*The American Challenge*]? The book heralded the world's imminent entry into a "technetronic era."

King: Well, that actually goes back a few years. We worked on that in the OECD. We did a large series of studies which we called "The Technological Gap" between America and Europe. We knew it wasn't a technology gap, but that was the way we were introducing the idea.



Servan-Schreiber

Servan-Schreiber's *The American Challenge* was based on stolen data of ours! He never acknowledged it. All our data was in that book. He even lifted direct quotes—without quotation marks—straight from our working papers.

We had a ministerial meeting with science and economic dignitaries to discuss our work on this. A very exciting meeting occurred,

and at the end of it my work inside the OECD was nearly

killed. The Americans and British didn't like it.

This was the time of the de Gaulle veto against British entry into the Common Market. . . .

The American industrialists approached the American government and complained that our discussions were teaching their competitors, these foreigners in Europe, all about their methods, so that the discussions were against the interests of the United States. They demanded they be stopped, and they were. Two years later, however, the Americans came back. Their dollar got into trouble. So they tried to get it all started again.

Meanwhile, we had probably the best team of young people that could be had anywhere in the world working on this technetronic model. It had to be disbanded for those two years. This shows how policies of nation-states go back and forth. You can't tie something like the Club of Rome to short-term policies.

EIR: Why were no Americans involved in the Club of Rome at the beginning?

King: They joined very soon after the founding. We wanted it to be small and compact. We had no money. We all paid our own way to all the meetings. We felt it was more convenient that the Europeans should begin by having discussions among themselves. And later, by all means, it could be opened to others. . . .

tors, Paribas Bank, Paris, France.

Dr. Aklilu Lemma, principal scientific coordinator, U.N. Conference on Science and Technology for Development, New York, U.S.A.

Sol M. Linowitz, former president, Xerox Corp.; attorney, Washington, D.C.

Elizabeth Mann-Borghese, professor of political science, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia; founder, Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies, Aspen, Colorado, U.S.A.

D. José Antonio Mayobre, Central Bank of Venezuela, Caracas, Venezuela.

Saburo Okita, foreign minister, Japan.

Jozef Pajestka, Planning Commission, Poland.

Clairborne Pell, Senate of the United States, Rhode Island.

Eduard Pestel, minister for arts and sciences, State of Lower Saxony, West Germany.

Edgar Pisani, European Community commissioner for relations to developing sector, France.

Ilya Prigogine, professor of science, Free University of Brussels, Belgium.

Kazimierz Secomski, vice-president of the Council of Ministers, Poland.

Dr. Soedjatmoko, National Development Planning Agency, Indonesia.

Thorvald Stoltenberg, secretary of state, Foreign Ministry, Norway.

Dan Tolkowsky, managing director, Discount Bank Investment Co., Ltd., Tel Aviv, Israel.

Victor L. Urquidi, president, College of Mexico.

Carroll L. Wilson, director, World Coal Study, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, U.S.A.

Ibrahim Helmi Abdel Rahman, adviser to the prime minister, Cairo, Egypt.

Yoshishige Ashihara, chairman, Board of Directors, Kansai Electric Power Co., Japan.

Jeremy Bray, member of parliament, House of Commons, Great Britain.

Felipe Herrera, president, Spanish Bank-Chile, Santiago, Chile.

Professor Abdus Salam, director, International Center for Theoretical Physics, Trieste, Italy.

Professor Roberto Vacca, author, *The Coming Dark Age*, Rome, Italy.

Thorkil Kristensen, former aide to the director-general for scientific affairs, OECD, Brussels, Belgium.

Maurice Guernier, author, *The Last Chance for the Third World* (1968), Paris, France.

Jean Saint-Geours, vice-president, International Association of Futuribles, Paris, France.