
Interview

'We should reduce Italy's population by two-thirds'

The population reduction doctrine of the State Department's Global 2000 report is not only a policy to deliberately starve billions of people in the underdeveloped sector. As shown by this interview with Dr. Luigi De Marchi, president of the Italian Institute for Demographic Research and of the Italian Planned Parenthood Association, there are plans afoot to reduce the population of the industrialized countries—by more than half. The following excerpted interview was conducted for EIR by Warren Hamerman, chairman of the National Democratic Policy Committee, during Mr. Hamerman's recent tour of Europe. Mr. Hamerman's organization has publicly denounced Global 2000 as "100 times worse than Hitler."

Hamerman: In your paper "The Population Bomb Is Ticking Worst in Europe," you call for the reduction of the Italian population to 20 million, by the year 2000. The question that I have is that, of course, there have been many studies over the years from Global 2000 to the works of Peccei, but always the problem comes up with implementation. How will you actually succeed in reducing in 19 years the Italian population from 60 million to 20 million?

De Marchi: You probably know that I am a psychologist, and I looked into the problem of motivation over the past years and I produced several reports that I can let you have. Do you know the Pathfinder Fund in the United States? I have been cooperating with Pathfinder for, I think, 15 years and in the period from 1976 to 1978 I wrote up research on new psychological methods to birth control. This paper went around the world and Pathfinder translated it and distributed it in 74 countries. I also received a letter in the last year from the World Bank in India. They said that they were very interested in this psychological approach and wished to advise the Indian government to explore the possibility of an application of my methods.

The general principle of my research has been that up until now, control has been fostered rather with moralistic or with rationalistic education. By moralistic I mean: "Be wise, be responsible, think of the future of your family." By rationalistic, not just the "Blah, blah, blah..." but discussions about the dangers of growth

and so on. In other words, the intellectual discussions.

But my conviction is that the situation is that people do not behave either rationalistically or moralistically when sex is involved. What comes into play is an unconscious drive. My interest has been to look into this process and see if you can use this drive for birth control rather than procreation. We even tried a few experiments in Italy along these lines which gave impressive results. . . .

Hamerman: Does there exist any counterpart to yourself in France?

De Marchi: Frankly I do not know anything of this kind in France, because in France the fight is simply between those who say that the present zero growth is okay and those who say it is dangerous, like [Michel] Debré. Debré says that it is just the beginning of extinction. In my view, a halving of the French population is more or less what is needed.

Hamerman: Here in Italy are there any political forces, such as Craxi for example, who think this way?

De Marchi: There is hope, I would say, along that line. For example, this recent conference I held was addressed by Francesco Forte, who is the most famous left-wing economist in Italy, and he is very near to [Socialist Bettino] Craxi, and he strongly supported my position during the conference. He said that this is a very creative analysis and he also shared the opinion that this was the prime method to allow the Italian population to overcome the economic crisis. There is also Professor Dimasi, a left-wing sociologist at the University of Rome, who at the conference also was extremely favorable to our thesis. So, there is hope in Italy around these people, but not much more than hope at the moment.

Hamerman: Do they agree with your figures of 20 million as the goal for the Italian population level?

De Marchi: Yes. For instance, Dimasi said that maybe it is too drastic, but anyway the idea is that we must go down, and he gave an analysis that he thinks is the only practical economic model in Italy for an improvement in living standards in spite of the fact that there is no increase in national product, of GNP. This is possible only when the population is decreasing.

Hamerman: One question still remains. How is it that in only 19 years you will succeed in reducing the Italian population by 40 million people?

De Marchi: For my plan, the problem is always the question of control of political power. The possibility in my opinion is quite clear, because if you want the possibility to remotivate psychologically and emotionally the population away from rationality and morality, this is possible, I think, through motivational psychology.

Obviously this would involve a large involvement in mass media in all this. Up until now, unfortunately, this involvement even of a left-wing media is not adequate. However, in spite of that, I also think that the population is, through our actions, in spite of the inertia of others, of the failure of the political parties, is [beginning] to sense this need for birth control. For instance, I can give you an example. Recently we were able to insert in a very, very wild audience late at night, an entertainer in a broadcast, "Dottore C. and Jagger Bell," in front of 20 million TV viewers, issues but in a very sort of joking way. We were able to suggest the idea of sterilization in this way to the general public.

And in spite of the opposition of the Catholic Church, it resulted that a large majority of these 20 million Italians were in favor of voluntary sterilization. And that, to me, was very impressive.

Hamerman: In the Third World, the State Department and others have nonpublic plans to help the population reduction by impeding food supplies and such things. Is that in your plans for Italy as well?

De Marchi: I am not so sure about that. But anyway, here in Rome it will happen, but not for everywhere. It is not so easy to say.

Internationally, though, I am quite discouraged by the fact that the general approach up till now has been paternalistic and thought of as just a Third World problem. This is not true.

Hamerman: Within the Church, are there any forces, such as, for example, the Jesuit order, who show interest in your viewpoint?

De Marchi: They are open. Some of the Jesuits are more open than the general clergy.

One I met with was an important Jesuit, Padre Gustaf Harling. They see the problem in terms of world hunger, or also in terms of general well-being. But I never met anybody who had a grasp of this economic problem. The economic crisis has its roots in this European and Japanese imbalance in their population density.

Hamerman: Is any part of the nobility, the noble families, more understanding to your view?

De Marchi: Yes. After all, even Malthus was a man of the nobility. You must recognize that Malthus saw the basic problem. Obviously he had all this sexophobic conditioning, sex-negative attitudes. Nobility sometimes, though, is better trained to think with the necessary detachment on these kinds of things.

Hamerman: Do there exist any researches in your direction in the East bloc?

De Marchi: Yes, there is just the beginning of perception of the demographic dimension.

E. P. Thompson's dissident networks in the East bloc

by Luba George

Part II of this report introduced E. P. Thompson, the British "Marxist historian" who heads the European Nuclear Disarmament (END) group, European arm of the World Disarmament Conference, headed by Lord Fenner Brockway, the Fabian Society and Tavistock-linked founder of the old Independent Labour Party in Britain and a leading "agent-handler" for British intelligence networks in Socialist International and Communist International (Comintern) circles from the 1920s through the 1960s.

E. P. Thompson, an expert on the history of Jacobinism and the "Luddite" machine-breaker movements of the 18th and 19th centuries, is himself a shared asset of British intelligence and the KGB, in the Brockway tradition.

As soon as it became evident that Ronald Reagan would be the next American President, Thompson was deployed to the United States to aid the World Council of Churches networks to get the new "peace movement" off the ground. In this third part of our report, we introduce Thompson in terms of his special role in extending the "peace movement" into the East bloc and the Soviet Union itself.

"The new movement intends to exact a price from the Soviet Union as well," declared Thompson in the June 1980 *New Left Review*. "In the first place, this price must be the withdrawal of the MS-20 missile and other medium-range weapons from Europe, and the opening up of East European nations to much greater fluency of exchange. We mean to dissolve that arbitrary ideological frontier in the course of—and as one of our objectives of—our common action for peace. We will not accept the 'peace-loving' bona fides of countries who expel philosophers. . . . Maybe in 1982 or 1983, we will get together to pull down the Berlin Wall."

For E. P. Thompson, such threats of destabilization are more than rhetoric. He is intimately connected to the "solidarist" networks in the East bloc, and to those Anglican, Jesuit, and Soviet KGB elements immediately behind the Polish destabilization.