

The Global 2000 attack on Colombia

by Cynthia Rush

A group of Colombian and U.S. academics, journalists, students, diplomats, and other professionals convened last month at Johns Hopkins University's School for Advanced International Studies to discuss "Democracy and Development in Colombia During the Eighties." Throughout the day-and-a-half conference, the participants tenaciously avoided any discussion of the two central issues relevant to Colombia's future: the expanding drug trade and the depopulation of the nation.

Except when the *EIR* representative intervened, the Nov. 6-7 conference panelists stuck to the agenda items and scenarios pre-packaged by the World Bank and the other Malthusian agencies that generated the U.S. State Department's *Global 2000/Global Future* policy of reducing the world population by some 2 billion by the end of the century. Colombia faces a future of "unbeatable" inflation and economic crisis necessitating strong doses of Friedmanite austerity; and heightening social conflict and violence in the country is to be resolved by the application of labor-intensive "full employment" programs. The fact that a depopulation policy has reduced Colombia's demographic growth rate from 3.2 to 1.9 percent in a little over 10 years was ignored. And, in his presentation on "U.S.-Colombian Relations," the State Department's Colombia desk officer James Bell never referenced the drug issue despite the fact that Colombia's role as a producer and exporter of large quantities of illicit drugs—chiefly to the United States—is the single most important issue affecting relations between the two countries. Bell dedicated all of his remarks to praising Colombia's backing for Alexander Haig's confrontationalist approach to the Caribbean and Central America.

There is a reason why the Johns Hopkins panelists studiously avoided mention of these crucial issues. From their positions at the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (AID), and leading academic institutions in the United States and Colombia, many of them have helped to *formulate and carry out* the drug and depopulation policies that have ravaged Colombia for three decades. Since 1949, Colombia has been one of the World Bank's most successful laboratory experiments. The dramatic decline in the growth of the Colombian population is not the result of modernization, urbaniza-

tion, and other advantages offered by a "newly industrializing country," as the population "experts" claim. It is due to higher infant-mortality rates and the destruction of living standards resulting from a regimen of harsh austerity and deindustrialization policies imposed by several Colombian Presidents beginning in the early 1960s.

The deliberate collapse of Colombia's cotton industry and its subsequent replacement by marijuana production is one example of what World Bank policy has wrought in this country. Yet, the individual perhaps most responsible for this disaster and for the encouragement of the drug trade—former President Alfonso López Michelsen—is today once again the presidential candidate of Colombia's Liberal Party, and is likely to be elected to office.

The defenders of Global 2000 are proud of the work they and their allies have done in Colombia. Spokesmen for such Malthusian agencies as the Aspen Institute, the Brandt Commission, the Environmental Fund and others brag of their "quiet" successes in Colombia: they reduced the population with "no fuss" and no political resistance and they brainwashed the Catholic hierarchy into not only accepting a population policy but collaborating in its implementation.

Even with these successes, Dr. German Bravo, a demographer at the United Nations Fund for Population Affairs who in 1969 and 1970 helped "convince" the Catholic Church—with the help of Jesuit factions, who had penetrated the Church hierarchy—that Colombia "needed" a population policy, recently complained that the Church has "returned to the [pro-growth] position it held 20 years ago," and was now charging that population programs were part of an "international genocidal plot." Malthusian forces in Colombia are particularly fearful that elements in the Church hierarchy might ally with the pro-development faction of the Colombian Communist Party (PCC) in much the same way that certain Vatican forces informally collaborate with the Italian Communist Party.

A force of considerable influence within the organized labor movement, the PCC in recent years has led the fight against destruction of living standards and has denounced the World Bank by name. The potential for such an alliance is indicated by the fact that a Church-affiliated publishing house published the book *No Más Hijos (No More Children)* written by respected PCC economist Julio Silvacolmenares, exposing the role of the World Bank and private U.S. foundations in carrying out genocide in Colombia. To prevent this nascent alliance from developing any further, the faction of the military and political establishment linked to the drug trade has launched a campaign to implicate the PCC in acts of terrorism and "subversion," a pretext for jailing and killing many of its leading members.