

Club of Life launches organizing worldwide

by William Engdahl from Wiesbaden

With simultaneous founding conferences in Rome and Wiesbaden, West Germany joined by supporting founding conferences in nine cities throughout North America and Ibero-America, the Club of Life, an entirely new institution, has been born.

The founding conferences, which took place over a three-day period from Wednesday, Oct. 20 through Friday, Oct. 22, were the actualization of a concept originally proposed by European Labor Party Chairman Helga Zepp-LaRouche to the January 1982 conference in New York of the International Caucus of Labor Committees. That initial proposal was conceived to galvanize a counterpole of optimism throughout the world to the rampant emergence of neo-Malthusian ideology fostered in the advanced sector and increasingly in the developing world by organizations such as the Club of Rome.

Even before the opening words could be uttered in the first day's session, the combined international forces linked to organized crime and preservation of oligarchic hegemony attempted to destroy the embryo of the new institution. Forces including U.S. Ambassador to Italy, Maxwell Rabb, organized-crime lawyer Roy Cohn and his close friend Henry A. Kissinger attempted to strip essential security protection for Mrs. LaRouche and her husband *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

Mrs. LaRouche has herself been the target of no fewer than three mafia-style vehicular homicide "hit" attempts in West Germany during the past year.

In a packed press conference on Oct. 19 in Rome, one day before the historic event was to begin, founding Club of Life member, Webster G. Tarpley, announced that neither Mr. nor Mrs. LaRouche could be present in Rome for the founding meeting because of the refusal of the Italian government to provide proper security. Flanked by Club of Life founding members from the United States, Italy, Colombia, Argentina and West Germany, Tarpley singled out U.S. Ambassador Rabb, whom he accused of being linked to organized crime figures Roy Cohn and Meyer Lansky, as well as contaminated elements of the West German Bundeskriminalamt and the Federal Interior Ministry of the new Kohl government. Echoing Tarpley's bitter condemnation of Italian official complicity in a threatened assassination set up against the LaRouches, U.S. civil-rights leader Roy Innis, Argentinian journalist Ernesto Poblet, U.S. Manhattan Project physicist Dr. Robert Moon, Colombian trade-union confederation executive Pedro Rubio, Colombian Communist Party central committee member Prof. Julio Silva Colmenares, and European Anti-Drug Coalition leader Muriel Mirak joined in deploring the incredible security sabotage of Rabb and complicit Italian authorities.

Despite the initial note of security tension and attempted disruption of the conference, attendees from four continents regrouped on hours notice and organized two simultaneous founding conferences in Rome and Wiesbaden, West Germany where Mr. and Mrs. LaRouche could participate. If anything, the attempted sabotage steeled the resolve and determination of a most remarkable group of people who participated as founding members of the new institution. From that point, every single speaker in Rome, Wiesbaden and in support conferences openly denounced the disruption efforts of the U.S. Ambassador's office. Subsequent investigation revealed that Ambassador Rabb's own press attaché together with Rome AP correspondent, a Mr. Koo, were complicit in illegal activities to dissuade the journalists attending the press conference from giving any honest coverage. As a result, almost no media coverage of a most extraordinary international event resulted.

The Club of Life is born

Despite these sabotage attempts, involving millions of dollars and billions of Lira, on Wednesday at 10 A.M., in Rome and Wiesbaden, two simultaneous founding sessions opened as scheduled. Several hours later, in the western hemisphere, support conferences in New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Mexico City, Cali and Medellin in Colombia, and Buenos Aires, Argentina, as well as Paris, France were held. More than one thousand people on three continents participated in this unprecedented event. In Rome, some 400 people attended despite the massive harassment efforts. These included the Vice-President of the Southern Italian industrialists association, Mr. Ettore Bermanschi, who, speaking of his own government's security refusal, told the audience, "Countries like this do not deserve to be part of the community of nations."

Other attendees in Rome included representatives of embassies of Colombia and Guatemala to the Vatican, the embassies of Senegal, Venezuela, the Italian Foreign Ministry, the embassy of Vietnam, numerous universities and schools, many with large student delegations. In addition to founding members from four continents who had flown in especially for the event, attendees representing various cultural and trade union groups were present. At the same time in Wiesbaden, with Mr. and Mrs. LaRouche present, more than 75 people gathered.

Within hours, in both cities, participants began to realize the extraordinary quality of what had been created out of the initiative of Helga Zepp-LaRouche one year earlier.

The opening speech of Mrs. LaRouche was presented on her behalf in Rome at the same time she delivered it in person in Wiesbaden, sounding the theme of the entire three days' events, "On the Urgent Necessity to Create a Just New World Order." In Rome, this presentation, greeted with a mixture of anger at the security sabotage and enthusiasm at her actual message by the packed hall, set the tone. It was followed by

the presentation of Webster Tarpley, who anatomized the oligarchical world-view of the Club of Rome.

This was followed by sharp and powerful presentations from Julio Silva Comenares of Colombia on the impact of World Bank policy in developing nations; Dr. Emmanuel Tremblay of the French Right-to-Life organization; Rev. Dibala Mpolesha from Zaire, who made a powerful denunciation of attempts to force birth control and population reduction and Ernesto Poblet, editor of the respected Argentine weekly, *Búsqueda*, who painted a sharp picture of the decades of British and Milton Friedman economic sabotage of industrial development in his country.

The second session of the day in Rome then took up the theme of a new development policy and how it must be shaped to counter the present IMF-World Bank prescription for genocide. Speakers included a Nigerian nuclear engineer, a Zairean pro-life movement leader, a head of the leading trade union federation of Colombia, a prominent leader of the American civil rights struggles, and a leading Italian industrialist.

Through a complex international communications set-up, frequent instantaneous reports were transmitted from the events in Rome into the ongoing conference in Wiesbaden. From there, through simultaneous telephone and telex hook-up, support conferences in the United States and Ibero-America received instantaneous reports. As speaker after speaker ascended the podium, each of them expressing in his own way their extreme anger over the security breach against the LaRouches, participants at the Rome event began realizing they were participating in the creation of something extraordinary.

Almost as soon as their speeches in Rome were concluded, spokesmen began to change plans and make an unscheduled trip to join the Wiesbaden conference. There, on the first day, the speech of Helga Larouche was followed by that of Spanish economist Alberto Piñero, presenting a chilling picture of the tragic sabotage of the enormous industrial potential of that nation by the forces of the Socialist International and Club of Rome.

Lyndon LaRouche followed this with a presentation on the economic theory behind the New World Economic Order, noting especially the process underway since the Malvinas war in Ibero-America towards forced debt renegotiation.

At the conclusion of his remarks, Piñero told the audience of the profound sense of excitement which brought him to the conference following a reading of the book on economic theory by Mr. LaRouche. "This man took ideas which had been chaotically bouncing in my head and reorganized them coherently. I am honored to be here with him today."

A highlight of the afternoon portion of the Wiesbaden event was the announcement by Dr. Jürgen Spahn of the formation of an international medical research project to battle against degenerative diseases such as cancer. The proposal, Dr. Spahn announced, was the result of an initiative by

economist Lyndon LaRouche and was presented as the counter-initiative of the Club of Life to the hideous and growing proliferation of such ideologies as euthanasia by the Club of Rome and others.

The Spahn announcement, endorsed in the simultaneous presentation in Rome by Club of Life founding member Nancy Spannaus, called for a NASA-scale commitment on the part of both medical scientists and terminally ill patients to participate in organized research into the most promising avenues of cure of these killing illnesses. The audience response was enormous in both cities. Word of the proposal was immediately telexed into the ongoing New York and other western hemispheric Club of Life conferences.

On Thursday, the theme of the second day could be called ecumenical in the most profound meaning of that word. An unscheduled appearance at the Wiesbaden event was made by Prof. Aly Mazaheri, a renowned Iranian scholar who provided a very moving elaboration of the historical context of the struggle against today's forces represented by Kissinger, the Ayatollah Khomeini and the Club of Rome as the continuation of the tradition of Babylon, Assyria and other ancient centers of evil which employed usury and superstition to destroy entire civilizations. "During all these centuries," Mazaheri stressed, "these forces of Babylon have not succeeded in destroying our ideas. For this reason, I am optimistic."

Dr. Mazaheri concluded by reminding his audience of the ignominious fate of Henry Kissinger's ego-ideal, Metternich: "He was the damned soul of the Holy Alliance; and remember how he disappeared. That will also be the fate of Henry Kissinger." Emphasizing the historical fact that it was Persian scholars who preserved the sacred teachings of the Jewish Talmud as the Roman Empire sought to destroy them almost two thousand years ago, Mazaheri stressed a similar ecumenical unity of the positive tradition in Persian, Jewish, Christian and other religions to fight for realization of the principles of the Club of Life.

A similar ecumenical theme was voiced simultaneously in Rome by John Weber, a prominent Jewish American spokesman associated with the Board of Hebrew Union College; Father Prosper Grech of the Augustinian University in Rome; and Dr. Robert Moon, one of the pioneers in U.S. nuclear energy development, whose speech presented from a profoundly religious person, the basis of optimism for the potential of science to create a new era of civilization. This theme was underscored by the second principal presentation by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, "The Philosophical Foundations for a Just World Order."

As of the afternoon of the second day, a number of major policy initiatives had already emerged from several speakers. On Oct. 21 in Rome, John Weber, himself a long-standing member of the Jewish B'nai B'rith, presented a resolution, unanimously approved from the floor, for a reconstitution of the Nuremberg Tribunal for Crimes Against Humanity. The

purpose of this tribunal will be to try those guilty of crimes of genocide against entire populations in the developing sector and industrial world today. Other proposals approved by the conference included the call by Colombian trade union leader Pedro Rubio to establish within the Club of Life organization a North-South labor committee to bring together workers and peasants from the North countries and the South or developing countries to spread the ideas of the Club of Life.

A proposal by Dr. Muriel Mirak to rehabilitate former drug addicts by providing them with productive skilled jobs in developing sector lands also won enthusiastic response. Immediate moves to gain non-governmental organization status for the Club of Life at the United Nations have also been initiated as well as a proposal to create centers in Africa dedicated to the study of the thought of St. Augustine, the great African who is one of the founding fathers of the early Christian Church.

By Friday, the third day of the proceedings, founders had traveled from Rome to Wiesbaden so that they could participate in this historic process with Lyn and Helga LaRouche. Dr. Moon, Reverend Mpolesha from Zaire, nuclear engineer Nicholas Uwazie from Nigeria, Ntumba Kabemba, a Zairean geologist, and U.S. civil rights leader Roy Innis all followed the powerful opening speech presented by Mrs. LaRouche. Indicative of the profound process these leading fighters for justice and life from around the world were undergoing was the opening remark of Roy Innis: "I want to first express my public gratitude to Lyndon LaRouche. . . . I want to commend Helga LaRouche for initiating the Club of Life, an idea whose time has come. . . . If I had joined with Mr. LaRouche's efforts ten years ago, many of my initiatives in the United States and Africa would have been much more successful."

A concluding presentation to the open portion of the founding conference was made by Modesto di Matte, President of the Agricultural Catholic Trade Union in Como, Italy who flew to Wiesbaden this day in order to present his endorsement, as an individual, of Rubio's call for the creation of North-South labor committees to build the Club of Life and his pledge to carry this message back to his region in Italy.

Following the conclusion of the public portion of the founding conference, the founding members withdrew to continue an eight-hour working session to hammer out a joint formal statement of founding principles for the Club of Life.

Next week, EIR will publish extensive excerpts from the speeches at the founding conferences, along with a transcript of the statement of principles, and an evaluation of the Club of Life's organizing effort. A report concerning efforts by the Henry Kissinger-Roy Cohn operation and of the AFL-CIO among others, to counter-organize against the Club of Life will also be forthcoming.