

Club of Rome on the offensive for Ibero-American depopulation

by Mark Sonnenblick

The Club of Rome, the international conspiracy to destroy scientific progress, held the first meeting of its "Latin American regional group" in Bogotá on Dec. 15-16.

The Club of Rome is on an unprecedented offensive to reduce the pace of population growth and permanently halt industrialization in Ibero-America. Its great opportunity is created by the effects of the International Monetary Fund's "shock therapy" on the economic, social, and moral structures. Countries desperate to refinance their debts may be willing to betray their futures for SDRs. Population-control policies are, in fact, a secret conditionality of the agreements between the bankrupted nations of the region and their creditors.

Club of Rome founder and president Aurelio Peccei entered the Bogotá forum arm in arm with Colombian president Belisario Betancur, long a target of the Club's seductions. Joining them on the dais were former Colombian presidents Carlos Lleras Restrepo and Misael Pastrana, three Colombian cabinet members, and the mayor of Bogotá.

The conclave consisted of 150 Club of Rome members and supporters from throughout Ibero-America and Europe. Among them were Ricardo Diez Hocklitner of Spain, who had organized the conference, Helio Jaguaribe of Brazil, and members of networks from Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico.

To try to please the Colombian hosts, the public part of the conference was focused on "How to stop the arms race," and the agenda was stretched at the last minute to include "terrorism." Peccei, who is on record advocating cannibalism as a practical solution to hunger, opened with an exhortation on the need to cage up "man's licence" through disarmament. Peccei, and his British cohort, long time NATO-OECD official Alexander King, railed against what they termed "the insidious sophistication of the arms race," and especially on "qualitative" leaps such as beam-weapons defensive systems. King, a co-thinker of new NATO chief Lord Peter Carrington, told *EIR* in June 1981, "The problem is that no politician dares tell his country that

the concept of national sovereignty is a lot of baloney." Before the conference, King confided that the Club of Rome is "putting together a general paper on beam weapons. We are very interested in the matter. We are totally against them, but we don't know how to deal with them."

Conference attendees were surprised to confront the Club of Life, an international organization founded in October, 1982 by Helga Zepp-LaRouche to defeat the Club of Rome. A Club of Life member greeted Peccei by holding up a copy of a book titled, "We Must Stop the Club of Rome's Genocide," written by Mrs. LaRouche's husband, Lyndon, and published in Colombia earlier this year. The adversary challenged Peccei, "We need nuclear plants, not marijuana plants. Colombia needs more people. We need machines which produce more machines, capital goods industries, not appropriate technologies." All the participants received written statements with the same indictment. At one point, President Betancur turned away from Peccei to receive from Colombian Club of Life leader Maximiliano Londoño a book advocating beam weapons.

Battles over whether nations will be allowed to expand material and cultural progress through the creative application of science and technology are taking place throughout Ibero-America:

- In Venezuela, the Club of Rome suffered a major setback on Dec. 4, with the overwhelming electoral defeat of ex-president Rafael Caldera, who campaigned for the Club's anti-technology ideology.

- In Peru, Club of Rome Jesuit co-thinker Juan Wicht of Boston University organized an international conference, "Population Growth for the Year 2050," in early December to push zero-population growth on countries such as Peru which are being ravaged by International Monetary Fund austerity programs. Wicht's spell was broken by laughter at a Club of Life banner reading, "Peruvians beware! They want to cut off your bananas."

- The Mexican government of Miguel de la Madrid, which is leaning over backwards to please its creditors, is

pushing a law through Congress during the next weeks which will partially legalize abortions.

Brazil: crucial battleground

Until this year's debt crisis, Brazil, the continent's giant, was so

problems through rapid growth and technological development that no politician dared even talk about birth control. In May of 1984, the government will begin formal sponsorship of birth control, according to the weekly *Veja* magazine.

Thanks to the IMF, Brazil's official population policy seems to have undergone a 180-degree shift. On March 1, the day after Brazil signed its agreement with the IMF, President João Figueiredo delivered a speech to the Congress in which he became the first Brazilian head of state to call for reducing population growth. On Dec. 6, two weeks after the IMF set new conditions with Brazil, the Brazilian Armed Forces Chief of Staff, Gen. Waldyr Vasconcelos, announced that during the next few weeks, he will ask President Figueiredo to create a "Special Secretariat for Family Planning." He implied the military now agrees.

As the Rio daily *O Globo* notes, the decision by the military planning body to reduce population growth "replaces the theory that a growing demographic mass is of strategic value in occupying and defending the national territory."

"We have an immense unsettled territory, needing a population of 200 to 250 million inhabitants to develop fully," insists retired ultra-nationalist general Antonio da Andrada Serpa, who is leading a strong campaign inside military circles against capitulation to the IMF and other enemies of Brazil becoming a world-class power by the beginning of the next century. His optimism is widely shared in military circles.

Vasconcelos agrees with investment bankers that a country filled with optimism from its rapid economic development will not readily give way to the cynicism of the Club of Rome's world view. Vasconcelos told *Veja*, "The country grew absurdly, but since there were jobs for everyone, nobody saw the exaggeration. All it took was for a crisis to come for everyone to realize that family planning should have been adopted 20 years ago."

Club of Rome activist Rubens Vaz da Costa, planning secretary for São Paulo under former governor Paulo Maluf, has been fighting for official population-control measures since the Club was formed. Planned Parenthood has quietly provided birth control to women in eight states for a decade. According to the head of their Brazilian operation, 33 percent of the women between the ages of 15 and 45 in the city of Manaus have been sterilized, 15 percent of São Paulo's women, and millions throughout the country.

Vasconcelos's announcement follows a media barrage on the theme that the painfully evident immiseration of Brazil's people is caused by overpopulation, rather than by the radical reduction in consumption levels imposed by creditors as a conditions for debt rollover. *Veja*, for instance, ran an exe-

gesis on the virtues of "family planning" as an alternative to "the population explosion" in its October 16 issue. It shrieked about Brazil having 200 million people in the year 2000. On the cover is a picture of a modern city in the midst of which is an egg about to explode. Many of the buildings have nuclear reactors on top—once again making the Club of Rome argument that population expansion forces technological progress, and that is dangerous.

Official population control has been taboo because, according to General Vasconcelos, the Catholic Church in the country that has the most Roman Catholics "always was a barrier to the solution of this problem." Rio de Janeiro's moderate Cardinal Eugenio Salles returned fire in a Dec. 2 declaration: "Looking at Brazil, one can see the mouths they want to suppress through artificial and thus anti-natural birth control are immensely less pernicious to the national good than the insatiability of those who want to defraud the national patrimony."

As *EIR* warned in a widely circulated March article, a demoralized country which sees its growth potential castrated, loses the confidence it can develop its resources, and becomes an easy target to foreign looters.

The military have been beseiged by "doom and gloom" studies emanating from Club of Rome networks and pumped through the Superior War College by General Vasconcelos and by such operatives as the architect of Brazil's post-1964 recession and de-nationalization, Roberto Campos.

Brazil's new "family planning" program will receive a third of its funding from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). This agency, like most of the "social" agencies of the U.N., implements Club of Rome policies.

What is the Club of Rome?

The Club of Rome is an elite conspiratorial group of 100, with a few thousand additional members of local organizations in the United States, Colombia, Venezuela, the Arab world and elsewhere. It was formed in 1968-70 through collaboration between corrupted layers of the NATO bureaucracy and such Soviet think-tankers as Dzhermen Gvishiani, the son-in-law of late Soviet premier Alexei Kosygin. On the American side, it receives substantial aid from the Rockefeller family and the Ford Foundation, and controls such institutions as the Aspen Institute, the Wharton School, the Atlantic Council, and people such as Vietnam War mastermind McGeorge Bundy and Rhode Island Sen. Clayborn Pell.