
Profile

What evil is Jeremy Rifkin up to now?

by Kathleen Klenetsky

On Aug. 8, the Pentagon issued a report charging the Soviet Union with serious violations of international agreements prohibiting the development of biological poisons. Authored by Deputy Assistant Defense Secretary Douglas Feith, the report called the 1972 Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention both “critically deficient and unfixable,” and asserted that, given the “stunning advances” in biotechnology, arms control agreements were totally incapable of regulating these weapons.

Appearing just a month before an international review of the treaty is to take place in Geneva, the Feith report clearly represented an attempt by the U.S. military to redress what is rapidly becoming a dangerous imbalance in Soviet and Western capabilities in biological warfare.

But shortly after its publication, environmental activist Jeremy Rifkin sued to prevent the United States from doing just that. On Sept. 2, Rifkin filed a suit in Federal District Court seeking to block all Defense Department efforts in the area of defensive bioweapons research, including research into antidotes, which is expressly allowed by the 1972 treaty.

By no means is this the first time that Rifkin, president of the Washington-based Foundation for Economic Trends, has sought to undermine U.S. national security. Through a similar suit filed in 1984, Rifkin dealt a severe blow to American efforts to close the East-West gap in biowarfare, by forcing the Pentagon to scuttle a planned important biological research laboratory in Dugway, Utah.

Rifkin has extended his crusade beyond the military *per se*. Over the past several years, he has led one battle after another—most of them successful—to shut down *all* U.S. biotechnical capabilities, including those which could dramatically increase the productivity of American agriculture. For example, Rifkin, with support from the Moscow-funded Green Party of West Germany, recently succeeded in postponing landmark tests in California of a genetically engineered bacterium capable of protecting strawberries, potatoes, and other crops from frost.

Rumors are now circulating that Rifkin may soon take up a new crusade—the AIDS issue—exploiting the anti-AIDS backlash spreading through the population for his own ends.

Just who is this fellow, anyway? Although many scien-

tists dismiss Rifkin as a kind of Ralph Nader of the scientific world, a gadfly who won't be taken seriously because he lacks proper credentials, he is a far more serious threat than that.

A Luddite in service to Moscow

Rifkin has devoted his entire adult life to wrecking the fundamental tenet of Western civilization, expanding population at a higher standard of living. He works closely with the Club of Rome, the premier institution of the population-reduction lobby, co-founded by European oligarchs and Soviet ideologues. And though he may not get paychecks from the KGB, he certainly functions as a willing, if not witting, servant, of Moscow.

Rifkin makes no bones about his overall aims. In his most recent book, *Declaration of a Heretic*, he lavished praise on what he called the “conspirators” in a movement to construct a “new world view.” These “modern heretics”—among whom he includes himself—are “preparing to do battle against what is certainly a formidable foe. *Their enemy is the consciousness of contemporary Western civilization. . . .* Their effort is truly monumental and without parallel: to redirect the very consciousness of the human species. . . .” (emphasis added)

Fittingly, Rifkin was trained at the Wharton School of Economics, a leading center of genocidal schemes against the developing sector. One such scheme, produced several years back, urged the Mexican government to reduce the population of Mexico City by one-half, a deurbanization scenario that would have done Kampuchean dictator Pol Pot proud.

While at Wharton, Rifkin became a leader of the anti-war movement, organizing a major anti-war rally in New York in 1967, and later staging a mock war-crimes trial against the United States, modeled on those sponsored by one of his idols, Bertrand Russell.

In 1976, he headed up the radical leftist People's Bicentennial Commission, through which, according to media accounts, he organized demonstrations of 20,000 pot-smoking hippies to protest against the official bicentennial celebrations for being too pro-capitalist.

In the late 1970s, in collusion with the Club of Rome and other oligarchical organizers of the so-called “Aquarian Conspiracy,” Rifkin launched his major project: an attempt to take control of the fundamentalist movement in the United States and to shape it into a Khomeini-like irrationalist, anti-science movement that could be used, ironically, to overthrow Christianity and replace it with a pagan bestialism that would explicitly undo the cultural and economic achievements of the Golden Renaissance and the Industrial Revolution.

To gain the necessary foothold, Rifkin forged a close alliance with Pat Robertson, the “conservative” TV evangelist and presidential aspirant. Robertson (along with the Soviet press) has frequently praised Rifkin's writings, featured him as a guest on the “700 Club,” and joined his campaign against

biotechnology. For his part, Rifkin has gloated in private conversation that he and Robertson "think alike on economics."

In 1979, Rifkin published *The Emerging Order: God in the Age of Scarcity*, in which he described the role of fundamentalism in replacing Western civilization with a "steady state society," an "age of conservation." Much of Rifkin's subsequent writings, including his better-known *Entropy*, elaborate the themes first developed there.

Rifkin's major premise was that God created a "fixed universe," and that "anything [science and technology in particular] that undermines the 'fixed' purpose and order that God has given to the natural world is also sinful and an act of rebellion. . . ."

A zero-growth God

Rifkin further argued that the notorious 19th-century scientific fraud, the Second Law of Thermodynamics, constituted God's "supreme law" of the universe. This "Entropy Law," wrote Rifkin, "tells us that every time available energy is used up, it creates disorder somewhere else in the surrounding environment. The massive flow-through of energy in modern industrial society is creating massive disorder in the world we live in. The faster we streamline our technology, the faster we speed up the transforming process, the faster available energy is dissipated, the more the disorder mounts."

To stop this inexorable collapse, said Rifkin, man must renounce science and technology, and embrace a society based on strict "limits to growth." And just what would that mean? "The low-entropy age," he explained, "will require a great reduction in world population. In the pre-industrial solar age, the carrying capacity of the world, in terms of human beings, was only 1 billion. Even at that, the world's resources were being severely strained. . . . It is essential that the world begin with renewed vigor a serious program aimed at reducing the earth's population in the decades to come. The world must once again move back toward a sustainable, Solar Age population." (emphasis added)

And what would that Solar Age paradise be like? Rifkin wrote elsewhere: "The Solar Age will require a greater conformity to the ancient rhythms of life. While small, appropriate technology relying on very limited stocks of non-renewable energy will still be used where absolutely essential, the bulk of the transforming work will revert back to human and animal labor as it has in every other period of history before the Industrial Age."

Given this outlook, one can be sure that if Rifkin does take up the AIDS issue, it will certainly not be from the standpoint of using science to find a cure for the deadly disease, the only sane approach to the problem. Indeed, it is quite probable that Rifkin will explicitly agitate against spending the required funds on medical research. Like his model, Bertrand Russell, Rifkin no doubt believes that epidemic diseases can be a most effective tool not only for killing off populations, but forcing the world into a new Dark Age.

The Media

'Black Widow' exposé case comes to court

A *Washington Post* legal spokesman has told *EIR* that *Post* owner Katharine Graham should decide during the week of Sept. 8-12, whether to contest the release of official records concerning the death of her husband.

Richmond, Virginia, Circuit Court Judge Willard I. Walker has scheduled a hearing for Sept. 22. He will rule on a petition to release the death certificate and medical examiner's reports, kept confidential since Philip L. Graham's alleged suicide in 1963. A series of articles published earlier this year in *New Solidarity* newspaper, now widely known under the nickname "Black Widow," discredited the "suicide" story and called for an official investigation. The series co-author Anton Chaitkin is bringing the Virginia court action as a first step toward a possible murder prosecution in the case.

We will here partially summarize the facts so far brought forward.

Motivation to murder

Philip L. Graham owned, and had considerably enlarged the *Washington Post*, since his wife Katharine's father Eugene Meyer had given it to him in the 1950s. Graham had bought *Newsweek* magazine for the *Post* Company. It soon became clear that Graham intended to run the newspaper and magazine, without regard to his wife's contrary political views.

Graham was appointed head of the Commercial Satellite Corporation by his close friend President John F. Kennedy. The Eastern Establishment had turned viciously against Kennedy over his space program and his commitment to stand up to the Soviets with strong scientific and military development. Phil Graham opposed the wreckers of the administration, including Defense Secretary Robert MacNamara, the *New York Times*, and his own wife and her family network.

Graham had left his wife and was living with *Newsweek* employee Robin Webb of Australia, whom he intended to marry. In January 1963, on orders of his wife, he was seized at a hotel banquet, bound and drugged, and placed for 11 days in a private sanitarium, Chestnut Lodge in Rockville, Maryland.