

Schmidt labors to reduce population, destroy nation-states in Third World

by Mark Burdman

On April 19-21, the Inter-Action Council, a group of former world leaders and leading advisers chaired by former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, will be holding its annual conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The main theme of the event is "the interrelation between population, environment, and development."

For Schmidt and his friends, this is a hallmark event, in a rapidly expanding campaign on several fronts, against the creation of a new world economic order, against the "Marshall Plan for Africa" proposal of French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, and against the perspective of Pope John Paul II for realization of the *Populorum Progressio* encyclical of Pope Paul VI.

It is by no means coincidental, that they are targeting Malaysia for the gathering. Malaysian Prime Minister Mahatir Bin Mohamed has a strong commitment to the development of his nation, epitomized by his repeated calls for Malaysia's population to be increased, and by his extremely tough measures against drug-traffickers. The Schmidt-led group is hoping to use international pressure, to break one of the important anti-malthusian governments in the developing sector.

Schmidt versus the Vatican

Schmidt has emerged as the chief public spokesman, for a group of primarily Northern and Central European elites, on both sides of the "Iron Curtain" divide, who believe that the current global financial-economic crisis, presents a wonderful opportunity for imposing what would best be labeled "malthusian crisis-management regimes," capable of imposing austerity on the model of Nazi Finance Minister Schacht, and of reducing the populations in the non-white-race sectors of the globe. An aide to Schmidt, authorized to speak for him on such matters, bluntly refers to this policy-commitment, as "stopping procreation in the developing sector."

This is producing a direct confrontation between Schmidt and allies, on the one side, and Pope John Paul II, on the other.

From March 11-12, a series of meetings occurred in Rome, between the Inter-Action Council and leading religious

spokesmen from the faiths of Roman Catholicism, American Protestantism, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam. The aim, according to published accounts and private information obtained by *EIR*, was to achieve "common ethical standards" on the questions of population and "family planning."

The cited spokesman for Schmidt said that the idea behind such a gathering, was to "get spiritual leaders into a dialogue, because they have leverage on opinion in the cultural-religious realm bearing on procreation behavior. Religious beliefs have a deep bearing on family behavior."

That stated, this individual stressed that the main thrust of Schmidt and allied efforts, is against the policies of John Paul II. "The present posture of the present Pope and his episcopate have a catastrophic bearing on population growth in Latin America, the main Catholic continent. Mr. Schmidt is trying to use all his channels into the Vatican, to change this. . . . The present Pope is not inclined to social progress, which is based on stopping procreation in the developing sector."

The spokesman praised two leading Catholic Church officials, Cardinal Koenig of Austria and Cardinal Casaroli, Vatican State Secretary, for having a different, more "pragmatic" approach. In fact, both Koenig and Casaroli participated in the Inter-Action Council deliberations in Rome, both making speeches, that were reported in the Vatican daily, *Osservatore Romano*.

This was like exploding a bombshell in certain quarters of the Holy See. *EIR* has received information from Rome sources who wish to remain anonymous, that a formal protest has been delivered to Pope John Paul II, from within the Vatican, about the Inter-Action Council meeting, insisting that the papacy formally distance the Vatican from such goings-on, especially in view of the participation of Cardinals Koenig and Casaroli.

In his own fashion, the Pope has issued an eloquent rebuff to Schmidt. According to an account in the April 4 *Osservatore Romano* of a speech made April 3 by John Paul II in Santiago, Chile before the Latin American Center of Demography of the United Nations' Economic Commission for Lat-

in America and the Caribbean, the Pope declared: "I know you are concerned about population growth. The demographic challenge, as every human challenge, has to push us to develop a human solidarity and creativity to utilize demographic growth as a formidable means for economic growth, and cultural, spiritual, and social growth."

He then quoted from a 1970 speech by Paul VI, before the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome: "It's clear that because of the economic difficulty we are facing, there is a strong temptation to utilize authority, in order to diminish the number of eaters. Instead, we have to multiply the bread and not diminish the eaters."

The present Pope added: "Human life is the holy center of the offer of God. We should be in favor of population."

The confrontation of policies could hardly be more explicit. Contrast the words in the above three paragraphs, to those of Schmidt's spokesman:

"What's the point of all this talk about a new economic global order? As long as population growth is higher than economic growth, this talk is in vain. Mr. Schmidt has come to this idea from his experience, he's a political animal. It's all very simple in mathematical terms, looking at it from his lifelong perspective. When he was young, world population was 2 billion. Today, it's 5 billion, and the mothers of tomorrow, are the children who are being born today."

East-West malthusianism

The Inter-Action Council, formed in the early 1980s, was the brainchild of United Nations Development Program insider (and former U.S. Congressman) Bradford Morse, former Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda, and former U.N. General Secretary Kurt Waldheim. It has become an important vehicle for advocacy of population-reduction.

In contrast to the arch-malthusian Club of Rome, one Schmidt intimate stated April 6, "We want to be concrete, realistic, and feasible, not to produce great reports that no one reads. Although, of course, we share common aims with the Club of Rome."

The year 1987 has already seen a considerable degree of activity from the Inter-Action Council. Aside from the cited Rome and Kuala Lumpur meetings, a meeting of seven of the Council's members took place at the University of Pittsburgh's Center for International Studies in Pennsylvania, on March 19-20. An article in the March 22 *Pittsburgh Press* noted that at the earlier Inter-Action Council meeting in Rome, the main focus was on population control, since "present trends make the pursuit of effective family planning inevitable."

The official headquarters of the Council is at an office of the United Nations Development Program in New York, overseen by Hans Dorville and Bradford Morse.

Approximately 70 former world leaders from 15 countries comprise the membership of the Council, including Malcolm Fraser, former prime minister of Australia, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, former premier of Canada, and Kurt Furgler,

former head of the State-Council of Switzerland.

Within this structure, a strategy has been evolved, to influence policy toward population in Ibero-America, utilizing a network of "left Catholics," including Portugal's former Prime Minister Maria Pinto Balsemao, Colombia's former President Misael Pastrana Borrero, and Italy's Giulio Andreotti.

Another dubious figure of a similar coloration, who has been brought on to a new "Policy Board" created by the Council, is Peru's former Prime Minister Manuel Ulloa, a bitter enemy of both Peruvian President Alan García and *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche; Ulloa promoted economic policies that fostered the growth of the drug trade, and is tied to elements of East bloc and Israeli intelligence services.

This Policy Board is a meeting place of East and West. Also on it, are former U.S. Defense Secretary Melvin Laird; former U.S. Democratic National Committee chairman Robert Strauss of Texas; former Soviet ambassador to West Germany Vladimir Semyonov; former Soviet ambassador-at-large Vladimir Suslov; China's ex-Premier Huang Hua; and former Spanish Minister of Education Federico Mayor Zaragoza. The latter is planning to form a cultural-political institution in the West, modeled on the one created in the Soviet Union by Central Asian (Kirghizian) writer Ginghiz Aitmatov, a malthusian mystic and agent of Raisa Gorbachova.

Destabilization of Malaysia

The East-West composition of the Inter-Action Council is also clear, in the speakers' list for Kuala Lumpur. Aside from Schmidt, Fukuda, Fraser, Furgler, and maybe Trudeau, it also includes former top-level officials from Romania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and possibly the Soviet Union.

Prime Minister Matahir, who has been ruthless in attacking drug-traffickers and other enemies of his nation, would not be wrong to see in this meeting, an East-West convergence against his government. No wonder, in the days leading up to the meeting, there have been reports in the international press of growing opposition to Matahir from within his own party. The spokesman for Schmidt, when asked how such a malthusian crew could have its annual meeting in a country with an anti-malthusian government, responded:

"I'm sure the Malaysian leader will have careful wording for his reception speech. The strong point made by the Inter-Action Council, which is agreed to unanimously by the leaders, is that family planning is a major step to the solution of most world problems. This will not be compromised with their hosts. In any case, the current prime minister of Malaysia is heading for domestic problems in the next weeks. He's interested in some international help, he needs to get back the support of his party, which is turning against him. He's looking to tough times. In fact, we had to be very flexible about the date for the meeting, putting it up in time, to Easter Sunday, even though this made it more difficult for some Catholics. He's having quite a lot of problems, so we had to do the meeting soon."