

Haiti: emergency OAS program needed

by Gretchen Small

The networks of the liberal establishment's secret government, Project Democracy, have chosen Haiti as the site for a new experiment, the maintenance of the same economic policies as the old Duvalier regime, through democratic "elections" imposed by international force.

Haiti's government canceled national elections on Nov. 29, after paramilitary thugs machine-gunned voters at the polls. Project Democracy ordered economic war launched against Haiti, demanding it accept an international military force to run new elections. The State Department canceled military aid and \$62 million in economic aid. With the World Bank and other nations joining, Haiti stands to lose an estimated \$50 million in December alone.

On Dec. 2, Rep. Dante Fascell (D-Fla.) suggested a bill be drawn up to impose an embargo on economic and military aid to Haiti, embargo trade, lift all favorable import tariffs existing under the Caribbean Basin Initiative, and give planned military aid to opponents of the regime instead.

Haiti must indeed get emergency international assistance to survive as a nation: *economic* assistance, from food shipments to infrastructure construction, which can build a basis for sustained economic growth in the future. Without that, all other action will feed into a civil war of unprecedented barbarity. The Organization of American States provides the appropriate forum in which such an emergency economic mobilization must be organized.

'Democratic' genocide?

For more than 25 years under the Duvalier regime, Haiti was used as an experiment in how primitivist religions, tribalism, cults, and drugs can control a population, under conditions of austerity. The project was run by a gang of international psychiatrists associated with British Intelligence's Tavistock Institute. Their social-control mechanisms—the Ton-Ton Macoutes, the political police run by the voodoo priests, are only the most infamous—are still active.

The Duvalier dynasty left another legacy as well. Under its rule, Haiti became the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, and one of the poorest in the world. More than 80% of the population live at, or below, the absolute poverty level, and earn under \$150 a year.

In 1986, Haiti's 6 million people still had an average life expectancy of under 55 years. The major causes of death are the diseases of poverty: typhoid and malaria, tuberculosis,

intestinal infections. In the 1980s, AIDS joined that list, rising to epidemic levels in Haiti before it had even been identified elsewhere.

The physical economy of the nation is minimal. In 1980, fully 57% of the labor force still worked in agriculture, with 55% of the arable land devoted to subsistence crops. Industrial activity is limited to foreign assembly plants producing for export, plants attracted to Haiti by tax incentives and cheap labor.

Communications, transportation, and sanitation infrastructure exist primarily in the capital, Port au Prince. In 1980, only 12% of the population had "reasonable access" to a safe water supply.

Energy production in Haiti provides the best indicator of economic backwardness: at the opening of the 1980s, eighty-five percent of the country's total energy consumption came from charcoal and firewood, which even powered its oil refineries! The reliance on 15th-century technologies has created an ecological holocaust. The burning of trees for charcoal deforested large areas, creating severe soil erosion and spreading deserts. Experts warn that if deforestation does not end, there will be no arable land left in Haiti by the year 2000.

When "Baby Doc" Duvalier and his family were flown out of Haiti on a U.S. Air Force jet on Feb. 5, 1986, the U.S. State Department announced aid to Haiti would be resumed, once the new regime promised to bring in "democracy"—and go to the International Monetary Fund.

The IMF and the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) have been seeking ways to "modernize" the Haitian economy—without changing its fundamental parameters—for the past decade. In 1980, a team of "cultural anthropologists" drew up AID's long-term development strategy to, in the words of AID itself, cohere with the "Haitian peasant worldview."

Industrial development is ruled out. Energy conservation is proposed to resolve the crisis of "severe environmental degradation" caused by dependence on charcoal. The "lack of funds" for education requires concentrating on a "limited effort in human resource development," AID argued. And, as usual, cutting back population growth was assigned a high priority.

That program has not changed. In its 1988 fiscal year request, AID calls the new post-Duvalier government's efforts to "liberalize the economy and promote private sector investment," its key success. (AID's rural malaria workers, they report, now also "distribute family planning commodities.")

After Duvalier left, Project Democracy poured money—at least \$8 million—into establishing an election apparatus, the Provisional Election Council, under the control of Project Democracy's National Endowment for Democracy. Instead of living conditions, Haitians were to be given "the right to vote:" a population in which 80-90% are illiterate—as is the case in Haiti—told to choose among 23 presidential candidates!