

## **EIR Feature**

# **Prince Philip and the EPA revive paganism as 'ecology'**

by Kathleen Klenetsky

Britain's Prince Philip, the Bush administration's Environmental Protection Agency head William Reilly, scientific quack Carl Sagan, Sen. Albert "Global Warming" Gore (D-Tenn.), and a congeries of Mother Earth worshippers, theologians, religious figures, and green fascists have issued an open declaration of war on the fundamental tenet of Judeo-Christian belief—that man is made in the image of God, that he is therefore the pinnacle of God's creation, that his role on Earth is to master the laws of nature, and that he must "be fruitful, multiply, and subdue the Earth."

The occasion was the first international meeting of the North American Conference on Religion and Ecology (NACRE), an outfit spawned a little over a year ago as an outgrowth of an international religious meeting on ecology, sponsored by Prince Philip in Assisi in 1986, and the Global Forum on Spirituality. William Reilly, who furnished NACRE's initial nest-egg while president of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and Prince Philip, who heads the Worldwide Fund for Nature, were NACRE's chief instigators.

NACRE's May 16-19 "Caring for Creation" conference, which took place in part on the grounds of Washington's National Episcopal Cathedral, launched a continent-wide "grass-roots" campaign to spread what can be rightly termed "ecopaganism" to North America's 650,000 religious communities.

One of the most explicit statements of this eco-paganism came from the Duke of Edinburgh himself. Speaking to the National Press Club during a break in the conference on May 18, His Royal Highness, who has previously expressed the desire to be reincarnated as a "deadly virus" because this would enable him to eliminate the world's excess human population, castigated the "revealed religions" for having tried to "draw people away from what they have seen as the pagan worship of natural phenomena." This, he said, has caused an ecological catastrophe.

"It is now apparent," he asserted, "that the ecological pragmatism of the so-called pagan religions, such as that of the American Indians, the Polynesians, and



A startling assortment of kooks, shamans, druids, and revisionist theologians met to receive their marching orders from the Duke of Edinburgh and other "bigs" of the new ecology movement. Weird, but very dangerous.

the Australian Aborigines, was a great deal more realistic in terms of conservation ethics than the more intellectual monotheistic philosophies of the revealed religions."

NACRE was established for the express purpose of devising a battle plan for infiltrating such overtly pagan beliefs as those voiced by Philip into the mainstream churches. Its strategy is premised on winning over religious leaders and lay people alike to the blasphemous view that God somehow didn't really mean it when he told man, as cited in the first chapter of Genesis, that he should have dominion over nature.

What God really meant, according to NACRE and its collaborators, is that man should be a "steward" of nature. "Stewardship" is a euphemism, devised initially by circles around the neo-malthusian Club of Rome, to give currency to the oligarchical—pagan—concept, that man holds no special place in the hierarchy of nature, and that his role is to serve nature (the Earth goddess, Gaia), rather than vice versa. To the extent that man has tried to master nature and its laws ("dominion"), as opposed to passively worshipping nature ("stewardship"), he has not only destroyed the environment, but is committing the worst imaginable sin against God.

**The eco-paganist paradigm shift**

By spreading this garbage, NACRE's sponsors hope to subvert the churches and synagogues—the institutional representatives of the Judeo-Christian tradition—and ultimately transform them into instruments of the final destruction of

that same tradition.

A recurring theme of the conference was the important role played by religions and religious institutions in shaping the most deeply held beliefs and behavior of masses of people. Thus, if the churches can be bent to the will of the environmental pagans, they are likely to have the most success in transforming the peoples of the world into hordes of irrational eco-fascists.

"The religious leaders are the ones who can persuade people that they must change their lifestyles, consume less, and stop thinking about mankind as somehow being above the rest of nature," confided one NACRE spokesman. In a similar vein, Dr. Lester Brown, head of the pro-genocide Worldwatch Institute, told the conference: "One of the great challenges to the religious community throughout the world now is to adjust human behavior at the lifestyle level, and to bring about the economic restructuring that will permit us to preserve the creation."

A NACRE official privately revealed that the organization has every intention of fostering paganism—although, he cautioned, the group won't say so outright—by promoting Native American spirituality as the model of an ecologically correct religion, as well as the "Earth goddess" or "Gaia" ideology and its multiple variants.

"We must foster the understanding of the interconnectedness of all religion," the official said. "Native American spiritual traditions will have a major function to play in awakening people to Earth spirituality. This represents a deepened

and more penetrating nature of humanity's relationship to the planet. The environmental crisis is forcing every major religion to re-understand its relationship to nature, and it is this which is creating a true paradigm shift."

Indeed, the NACRE conference featured a number of native American Indian speakers and performers, including "Ecoman," the spiritual descendant of Black Elk and author of a new book, *Mother Earth Spirituality*. And an "ecological fair" which took place on the grounds of the National Episcopal Cathedral on the final day of the conference, featured a blessing of the oak grove (oaks are an ancient Druidic symbol), and workshops on such subjects as "Youth's Role in the Greening of Religion," given by NACRE's Dr. Eugene Wilhelm.

"Native American spirituality" is seen as especially useful in promoting eco-paganism, not simply because it is obviously pagan, but because it melds perfectly with another key aspect of the eco-fascist assault: the goal of balkanizing the U.S. into an agglomeration of "bioregions," supposedly modeled on the geographic distribution and organization of pre-Columbian North America. We shall explore this further below.

### **Bring back the Earth goddess!**

Although an air of typically green kookery dominated the conference, it would be a grave mistake to downplay its significance, or the objectives which NACRE has set out for itself. Prince Philip's patronage of the event, and his presence there for three days, signifies that NACRE is an arm of the highest echelons of international Freemasonry, both East and West. William Reilly's integral involvement in all phases of NACRE's development, signifies that it has the backing of the Bush administration. If NACRE succeeds in its war against Judeo-Christian humanism, the consequences will be the destruction of humankind as we know it.

As with Prince Philip, the other featured speakers at the conference left little to the imagination; their overarching theme was that the Judeo-Christian concept of man is essentially evil. Unless man abandons this anthropocentrism, and adopts instead the pagan view of man as one mere element of nature, on an equal footing with others, then he will be swept away by an environmental cataclysm.

The Prince's basic theme was echoed by one speaker after another. William Reilly, who, along with Prince Philip, was the prime mover behind both NACRE and its conference, gave a speech in which he attacked the "human-centered approach, which looks at the needs of the human community" rather than those of nature.

Dr. Michael Fox, an official with the Human Society of the United States and director of its Center for Respect for Life and the Environment, gave a slide presentation containing the message that man's "doministic" attitude toward the animal kingdom has resulted in a "holocaust."

Bemoaning the loss of the "religious traditions of earlier

times, which linked humanity to the animal kingdom through the Earth Mother, the matrix-creatix . . . Gaia, Pan, Diana," and their replacement by the "male, monotheistic, religion of reason," Fox longed for a return to the "golden age of our hunter-gatherer ancestors and the silver age of sedentary sustainable agrarian peoples."

Jürgen Moltmann, a theology professor from Tübingen University in West Germany, where he is a collaborator of the schismatic Hans Küng, talked of the need to "change the image of God." The reason for "humanity's seizure of power of nature," he said, lies in "modern man's vision of God as Lord of the world, with Earth as a passive object, which dates to the Renaissance. . . . We need to change the image of God, because that determines how man views himself and nature."

Referring favorably to the gnostic Gospel of Thomas, Moltmann called for developing a "Divine Ecology" and a "declaration of the Rights of Nature. . . . Nature must be recognized as a subject in its own right." Furthermore, he said, "We need to integrate animal rights, nature rights into a new Constitution."

### **Eco-paganism means human sacrifice**

When Prince Philip and others praise paganism, they are not indulging in rhetorical excesses. What they are talking about is, quite literally, a return to the worst aspects of paganism, with its irrationalism, its disdain for human dignity, its practice of sacrificing human life to appease the gods and goddesses.

That was nowhere more apparent than in the economic and "lifestyle" changes which were called for at the conference, and especially in the constant stress that was placed on curbing human population growth.

Dr. Lester Brown, head of the neo-malthusian Worldwatch Institute, gave one of the most important presentations in this area. He insisted that the global environmental crisis demands "an environmentally sustainable global economy," which would require three essential prerequisites: First, "stabilize population;" second, "phase out fossil fuels" in favor of renewable energy sources, especially solar and wind; and third, protect the ozone layer and eliminate the (fraudulent) greenhouse effect, by enacting such measures as a punitive "carbon tax."

Brown went on to call for the elimination of all income taxes, and their replacement with "environmental taxes." Since the personal and corporate income tax bill in the United States amounts to approximately \$450 billion annually, the magnitude of the environmental restrictions which Brown proposes amounts to a sure-fire prescription for bringing all productive economic activity to a halt. It's hardly surprising that Brown predicted that the principal mode of transportation in this "sustainable" dystopia would be the bicycle.

The sustainable economy that Brown et al. envision

would be physically incapable of sustaining a global population of more than 500 million, which leads to the underlying goal of the eco-fascist movement: global population reduction.

Although many conference speakers paid lip service to the need for economic development in the Third World, this was simply a cynical ploy to lure Third World nations into adopting the same industry-wrecking ecology measures now being promoted in the advanced sector.

It takes very little to pierce this rhetorical veil and get to the real agenda: the brutal depopulation of vast areas in Africa, Asia, and Ibero-America, coupled with a ruthless reduction in the industrialized nations' standard of living.

Jessica Tuchman Matthews, a former leading member of the National Security Council staff in the Jimmy Carter administration—the sponsors of the notorious *Global 2000* blueprint for population reduction—and now head of the World Resources Institute, told the conference that, of course, the Third World should have economic development. But to accomplish this, the industrialized world must “drastically lower its consumption of resources,” while the developing sector “must agree to drastically lower their population growth.” “That’s the bargain,” she flatly stated.

The same formulation came from almost every other conference speaker, from Donald Lesh, head of the Global Tomorrow Coalition—set up to promote the genocidal recommendations of *Global 2000*—through a particularly disgusting version put forth by NACRE’s “scholars’ group.” Presenting the group’s findings, one of the “scholars” reported that there had been lengthy discussion of how to convince the poor that ecology was good for them, even if it meant an end to economic progress. The scholars solved that thorny development by deciding that “we should no longer see the poor as victims, but as sources of wisdom, because they are so close to the Earth.”

This contempt for human life was most nakedly expressed by Prince Philip, who, when asked whether he would intervene to try to get Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland to stop fighting each other, retorted: “I don’t mind what they do to one another” as long as they “agree on conservation.”

## Gaia against the Pope

By identifying population growth as the main threat, NACRE—and the environmental movement as a whole—have de facto named those who oppose population curbs as obstacles which must be overcome or destroyed. This means the Roman Catholic Church. For, while there are plenty of nominal Catholics who are eco-fascists, including some in NACRE’s top echelons (William Reilly and former Notre Dame President Theodore Hesburgh among them), the Church as an institution continues to hold firm against the neo-malthusians. And while numerous environmentalists, including many in NACRE’s ranks, praised Pope John Paul

II’s Jan. 1 statement on environmental concerns, there is no getting away from the fact that the Pontiff is fighting tooth and nail against the two main premises of the eco-fascist creed: that human population growth is evil, and that man holds no special place in creation.

Thus, it was shocking but not surprising, when keynote speaker Russell Train delivered a deliberately insulting and provocative attack on the Pope, during a gala conference banquet May 18. Train, who currently heads the World Wildlife Fund, is a longtime ally of George Bush, and who recommended William Reilly as EPA chief, was utterly enraged by John Paul’s trip to Mexico, where he repeatedly polemicized against population control, and unswervingly defended the dignity of every human being.

Train led up to his attack on the Pope by asserting that “overriding all other threats [to the environment] is the burgeoning human population, and here we have no one to blame but ourselves. . . . Environmental problems will be compounded exponentially” as population grows.

Train complained bitterly that, despite the constant warnings emanating from the genocide lobby about human harm to the environment, “yet Pope John Paul II in Mexico” reiterated the Catholic Church’s opposition to artificial birth control, by stating that in using artificial means to frustrate conception, couples “cut themselves off from God and oppose His will.” “Personally,” Train continued, “I find it difficult to accept that it is the will of God that humanity should degrade, deface, desecrate and, ultimately, possibly destroy His creation on Earth. . . . Yet that is the course upon which we are embarked.”

Lamenting the loss of animal and plant species, which he blamed on “anthropocentrism,” Train blasted the pro-life movement: “We hear much today about the right to life, and the phrase as normally employed, seems to extend only to human life, as if the rest of life is somehow irrelevant.”

(Prince Philip has been frenetically courting the Pope’s involvement in various eco-fascist schemes, and he recently announced, following a meeting with the Pontiff, that the Vatican will collaborate with the Worldwide Fund for Nature. Knowing this, this reporter approached Philip, who had been seated on the dais during Train’s remarks, to ask him if he agreed with the criticism of the Pope. His Highness pursed his lips, turned his back, and walked away, without uttering a word.)

Train was by no means the only speaker who excoriated the Catholic Church. Dean James Park Morton, of the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, which is home to a host of pro-pagan organizations, including the Gaia Institute and the Temple of Understanding-Lucis (formerly Lucifer) Trust, cardinal”—i.e., John Cardinal O’Connor—for failing to appreciate Earth Day.

NACRE’s hostility toward orthodox Christianity was also evidenced in its sponsorship of two Catholic priests who

espouse beliefs ranging from the pagan to the near-satanic. These are Matthew Fox, who in 1988 was silenced by the Vatican for a year because of his sponsorship of witchcraft; and his fellow Dominican, Fr. Thomas Berry, a member of the Club of Rome and a favorite theologian of the "New Age" circuit.

Berry, a devotee of Teilhard de Chardin, is an admirer of Native American spirituality; believes that not only eating meat, but also some forms of agriculture, should be extirpated because they harm Mother Earth; thinks that Christianity has cut people off from nature; and calls democracy a kind of human conspiracy against the natural world, and the U.S. Constitution a conspiracy of humans against the North American continent.

Although neither was personally present, their influence was palpable. One of the featured speakers at the conference was Brian Swimme, who teaches at Fox's Institute of Culture and Creation Spirituality, and who also is a student and collaborator of Berry.

### Doing the devil's work

The marching orders handed down at the conference were of several different levels. Carl Sagan reported on the success he's had in getting scientists and religious figures to sign a call he issued last year for cooperation between the two communities on ecological concerns. A joint project of himself and Dean Morton, Sagan indicated that he will vigorously pursue this initiative. "The religious community must commit itself as boldly as possible to preserving the environment," said Sagan, and this includes helping to "halt population growth."

William Reilly made a special appeal to all religious denominations represented at the conference, to issue a pastoral letter, or its equivalent, on nature and the environment. "In the next year, I would like to see each faith, each denomination represented here, formulate its own restatement of the moral and spiritual basis for the stewardship of nature," Reilly said. "These statements could have a powerful influence for environmental betterment."

Plans were hatched for holding at least two follow-up conferences, one in Brazil in May 1991, and the other in Japan the year after. Prince Philip is integrally involved in the plans for both.

Dr. Donald Conroy, NACRE's president and former "ethical adviser" to the World Bank, is writing the religious study guide for the ten-part eco-fascist propaganda series, "Race to Save the Planet," scheduled to air on the Public Broadcasting System this fall.

There was also extensive discussion of how to radically restructure American education, so that ecology would be the underlying theme of all disciplines. Dr. John Kirk, who runs a school for conservation education in New Jersey, reported, for example, that he is a member of a state commission charged with advising Gov. James Florio on the best

methods for reorienting the state's educational system to environmental issues. One of the commission's recommendations is that every school be required to teach at least some courses in environmentalism, and to incorporate ecology into other parts of the curriculum.

### 'Bioregional' groups are shock troops

The shock troops for implementing NACRE's eco-pagan vision will be the numerous grass-roots "bioregional" groups which were set up at the conference. The bioregional concept, which is one of NACRE's core components, is where the eco-fascist movement converges with another, related conspiracy—also inspired by the British royalty—that against the nation-state (see *EIR*, April 27, 1990, "Are British oligarchs trying to balkanize the U.S.A.?" )

Bioregionalism holds that modern nation-states are artificial structures, which should be broken down into much smaller regional associations, under the top-down control of some supranational governing structure, such as the United Nations. Bioregionalism was born from the realization of the eco-fascist elites that a modern nation cannot function without a technologically advanced, large-scale industrial, energy, and agricultural base, and that the nation thus has a built-in resistance to the "small is beautiful" lunacy of the ecology movement. The bioregionalism movement was spawned as a vehicle for balkanizing the United States, in order to facilitate the imposition of eco-fascism. Prince Philip, in his National Press Club remarks, noted that NACRE "is seeking to link religious communities in this country into what are called 'bio-regions.' "

A speaker at the NACRE event was Peter Berg, head of the Planet Drum Foundation, and the reputed godfather of American bioregionalism.

The two bibles of the movement are Joel Garreau's *The Nine Nations of North America* and Kirkpatrick Sale's *Dwellers in the Land: The Bioregional Vision*. Sale founded the North American Bioregional Congress, and serves as secretary of the E.F. Schumacher Society, Schumacher being the late British ecologist who preached against science, technology, and the modern nation-state on the grounds that "small is beautiful."

In Sale's words, bioregionalism envisions a world "based not on arbitrary political borders but on natural geographic regions defined by their particular flora, fauna, landforms, and waterways." The concept of [Gaia] bioregionalism "springs from the ancient concept of Gaea and is embodied in part by the programs of the current-day Green movement."

In the dark, grim world of bioregionalism, human scientific and economic progress must stop because it hurts Gaia (Mother Earth), and will lead to catastrophe. Mankind should be content with a "steady-state economy" (i.e., negative economic and population growth), which can best be achieved by junking the nation-state in favor of feudal-style regimes and a "Gaian consciousness."