

enous people,” because their pantheistic beliefs “can contribute to finding ways of living that respect and do not over-burden eco-systems.”

### When they say ‘God,’ they mean ‘Isis’

In another frontal assault on Christian doctrine, the document suggests a radical redefinition of the Holy Trinity, calling for identifying the Holy Spirit as the “feminine aspect of God.” This effectively substitutes the pagan version of the Trinity—Isis-Horus-Osiris—for that of the Christian one. Indeed, Barney told one journalist that he was very much influenced by the book *Models of God* by theologian Sallie McFague, which holds that “new metaphors” of God that are more “relevant” to the environmentalist push are needed. She recommends that God be seen not as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but as “friend, mother, and lover.”

In its implementation section, the statement urges the WCC’s Canberra meeting to “draw up and implement a Universal Declaration of Human Obligations Towards Nature.” Such a declaration would require, for example, beefing up the United Nations to enforce environmentalist restrictions, and instituting “a set of legal principles and recommendations regarding environmental protection and sustainable development.”

The WCC member churches, meanwhile, should “develop, review and reinterpret as necessary all teachings, hymns, doctrines, confessions and liturgies to ensure that they reflect new theological and ethical insights into human responsibilities for the care and preservation of creation” and “the stewardship of human fertility.”

But even prior to the Canberra meeting, key Protestant churches are working out statements on the ecology. For instance, commissioners to the 202nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church this spring endorsed a document entitled “Restoring Creation: For Ecology and Justice,” which bears a marked similarity to the WCC statement. That is no coincidence, since Gerald Barney consulted with the Presbyterian’s eco-justice task force. The document is full of talk about “global warming” and the “greenhouse effect,” the “population explosion,” and the importance of “sustainable development,” and calls for a new ethic of “earth-keeping.”

Here again, the real villain is man, especially his insistence that he holds a unique place in Creation, by virtue of his special relationship to the Creator. “We have noted already,” says the document, “that the crisis of our time compels us to transcend the traditional, strictly anthropocentric understanding of justice. The neighbors that claim respect and concern include our nonhuman companions. The human community depends upon the biotic. Nature’s systems are vulnerable. Earth is oppressed along with people. Social systems cannot be justified if they are not sustainable. We may still speak of justice when thinking mainly about people, but justice is a subset of eco-justice.”

## Britain courts the butchers of Beijing

by Mary M. Burdman

Great Britain broke ranks with the European Community and sent a cabinet officer, Francis Maude, who was Foreign Office Minister for Hong Kong, to visit Beijing on July 24. The United States and Japan are the only other advanced industrialized nations to have sent such high-level officials to Communist China after the June 4, 1989 massacre in Tiananmen Square. Britain claims that the importance of Sino-British negotiations over Hong Kong, which will revert from British colonial rule to Chinese sovereignty in 1997, give it the right to ignore the EC ban on ministerial contact with China.

The visit is being made at the worst possible time for Hong Kong’s 6 million Chinese citizens. It coincides with the debate over a proposed Bill of Rights for the city after 1997 in Hong Kong’s Legislative Council—a measure which Beijing wants to quash. At the same time, a show trial is being run in Hong Kong against a group of democracy protesters, charged with violating some archaic ordinances by using bullhorns and collecting money.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had the temerity to promote Maude to a new post—finance secretary to the Treasury—on the eve of his trip. Beijing will play Maude’s visit up to the hilt, as a sign of “acceptance” by the world, veteran BBC Beijing correspondent Simon Long stated July 23. Prime Minister Li Peng had just had a meeting with former Australian Prime Minister Gough Whitlam, whom Li told, “The clouds of attempting to isolate China are dispersing as more and more countries are responding to China’s sincere desire for friendly coexistence.”

Before leaving for China, Maude said he would raise the issue of human rights violations there, but both he and the P.R.C. leadership know that is not to be taken seriously, since he also stated before he left Britain, “There have been good moves in China and we should respond to them.” China will make its usual assertions about its national sovereignty, and that will be the end of the matter. “Improved atmospherics” over Hong Kong is the only issue.

Atmospherics have already improved significantly with the American side. The mayor of Shanghai, Zhu Rongji, completed a tour of the United States in mid-July, and was most pleasantly surprised by the warmth of his delegation’s reception, the pro-Beijing newspaper *Wen Wei Po* reported July 12. Zhu was received by members of Congress and State

Department Deputy Secretaries Lawrence Eagleburger and Robert Kimmit in Washington, and told the press July 12, "It was generally agreed to make efforts to deepen mutual understanding and to resume and develop good relations between China and the U.S.A." Zhu announced that he would invite some of his new acquaintances from Congress to Shanghai, to discuss human rights.

### Red carpet treatment

Not to be outdone, Maude called for the restoration of "warm and cooperative" British relations with China. He told the BBC in an interview that the European ban on soft loans to China "exists by consensus. A number of us think that the time has come to start relaxing those measures, but we won't until we have a consensus." Resumption of military aid, however, is still "a long way down the road," he conceded.

The Chinese responded in kind. Maude was honored with a meeting with Prime Minister Li Peng on July 25, a meeting that still had not been confirmed in the last days before his trip. There are reports that Maude was preparing the way for a visit to Beijing by Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd before the end of the year. This would be most significant. Hurd has played a critical role for decades in shaping Britain's policy in support of the Chinese Communists. Hurd, who speaks Mandarin fluently, is a product of that nest of British communists, Trinity College, Cambridge University.

China's Deputy Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei toasted Maude at a banquet July 24, where he said that despite "twists and turns" in Sino-British relations over the past year, he hoped the visit would "mark the start of a good working relationship between us." The two sides, Tian said, "share much common ground."

### Show trials in Hong Kong

Part of their "common ground" is making sure that the growing democracy movement in Hong Kong is kept firmly repressed. The colonial government has called for "guilty" verdicts against five protesters who were staging peaceful sit-ins last February, demanding elections in the colony before 1997. Under the British administration, there are no elections in Hong Kong. The protestors are members of the new United Democrats Party, which includes Hong Kong Alliance leader Lee Wing Tat. The charges are based on ordinances from 1900 and 1933, which have never been applied in this way before. After the Alliance brought up to 1 million Hong Kong citizens onto the streets last year, Beijing became very nervous and demanded that Britain crack down on "subversives" in the colony. Britain has assured the Beijing leaders that it will comply.

Even the leading British dailies are disgusted with the show. The *Times* denounced the "Appeasement in Peking" in its editorial July 24, and the *Independent* the next day denounced the British government's "disgraceful inclination to cringe before the geriatric murderers who now rule China."

## ASEAN hits U.S. turnabout on Cambodia

by Linda de Hoyos

The foreign ministers of the non-communist nations of Southeast Asia which gathered July 20 at the conference of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have registered their protests to Secretary of State James Baker that the United States has abruptly altered its policy on the Cambodian conflict.

In a move designed to distance itself from a military victory of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, the Bush administration announced July 15 that it would no longer recognize the tripartite coalition that includes the Khmer Rouge as the legitimate representative of Cambodia at the United Nations. Baker, who announced the shift from Paris where he was meeting Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, said the United States would also initiate dialogue with Vietnam—which backs the Hun Sen government of Phnom Penh in Cambodia—to seek a political settlement to the 11-year Cambodian conflict. "We want to do all we can to prevent the return of the Khmer Rouge to power," Baker said.

But ASEAN foreign ministers are pointing out that the U.S. about-face will not bring about a settlement, and without a settlement—forged quickly—the Khmer Rouge will take power in Phnom Penh. In the past month, the Khmer Rouge, led by the genocidalist Pol Pot and equipped and funded by the People's Republic of China, has made steady gains on the battlefield (see map).

As *EIR* reported in its July 6 issue, ("Khmer Rouge on the March"), the Bush administration handed the Khmer Rouge the opportunity to press ahead militarily when it blew up the talks in Tokyo among the Cambodian factions in early July. At that time, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon demanded that the Khmer Rouge be kept out of the peace process—after the Khmer Rouge had already signed a ceasefire agreement put together by then Thai Defense Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyuth. The U.S. "hard line" on the Khmer Rouge gave its representative Khieu Samphan the perfect excuse to rip up the agreement, with the U.S.-backed KPNLF following suit.

ASEAN leaders are making clear that they believe the latest U.S. maneuvers amount to the same provocative actions which get no result in the reality of conflict resolution. "My preliminary conclusion is that it is not helpful to the ASEAN process searching for a peaceful solution to Cambodia," stated Singapore Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng. "I