

Editorial

Ten years for the Club of Life

It is altogether fitting and proper that in this special issue on Africa we mark an important anniversary: the first decade of the Club of Life, born on Oct. 22, 1982, in twin conferences in Rome, Italy and Wiesbaden, Germany. The Club of Life was founded to be the counterpole to the Club of Rome, then ten years old, which had become the international rallying point for anti-life hatred.

Helga Zepp-LaRouche and those who joined her in forming the Club of Life in 1982 saw the need for an institution which consistently stood up for the inviolable right to life for all human beings—a right no longer deemed self-evident. The jargon of “lives unworthy to be lived” and of “useless eaters”—once used to justify the crimes against humanity for which Nazi war criminals were tried at Nuremberg—had crept into the thinking of the world’s leaders. It took its most overtly brutal form in lies about so-called overpopulation in the so-called Third World.

In 1972, the Club of Rome, a coven of oligarchs and pseudo-scientists, had released a book—*Limits to Growth*—in many languages, along with a lavishly funded publicity barrage. Authors Dennis Meadows and Jay Forrester, MIT professors, asserted that they had proved by computer simulation that the “world’s limits to growth” had been reached, and that humanity could escape a threatening ecological catastrophe only through a strict adherence to zero growth. The book suppressed the fact that resources on each level of development are dependent upon the technological level which defines them, and that technological progress, when encouraged, constantly yields new resources.

A few years later, Meadows and Forrester dared confess that their study lacked any scientific basis, that they had simply fed the computer selected information to get the desired result. But by then, the debate manufactured from these fictitious premises had brought about the “paradigm shift” that baptized the international ecology movement.

Suddenly, man was no longer the crown of creation, but a monster, who fouled the living space of frogs and owls. Step by step, people got used to this thinking. Soon it no longer mattered that an entire con-

continent, Africa, might starve to death. Rather, the fate of two whales excited the hearts of the world and brought in millions of donations.

If the development of the world was already more or less over, why study? There were no qualitatively pioneering breakthroughs in science any more. Life became boring and wretched. The ground was prepared for the “zero-growth” generation.

To oppose this *Zeitgeist*, the Club of Life uncompromisingly defended the inviolable value of human life based on natural law, which proceeded from an image of man which understood each person, no matter what color or from what part of the earth, as *imago viva Dei*, created in the living image of God. Those principles were elaborated in a little book by Lyndon LaRouche, *There Are No Limits to Growth*, which the Club of Life published in English in 1983 and since then, in several other languages.

In its decade of activity, whether engaged in the battle against abortion and euthanasia, for an effective fight against the AIDS epidemic, or for the development of the southern hemisphere, the Club of Life always began from the principle that human life can only be effectively defended if the current world order is replaced with a new, just world economic order in harmony with the principles of the papal encyclical *Populorum Progressio*.

The Club of Life was one of the few North-South organizations which demanded an end to economic underdevelopment without falling into the trap of pitting poor countries against industrialized ones. At thousands of meetings, conferences, discussion circles, and information stands in Europe, North and South America, as well as Thailand, India, and Zaire, the proposed solutions of the Club of Life were put forward and helped to build a worldwide movement against the anti-science outlook of the Club of Rome.

Today, when the Club of Rome’s satanic creed of human sacrifice has become the unacknowledged state religion of most governments, the Club of Life is more needed than ever, to defend obedience to God’s first commandment to man: Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it. Long live the Club of Life.