

ens the Thai race. We must expect major labor shortages in the future. Already many jobs are going unfilled. In the rural regions, this is partly due to migration to Bangkok, but it is also the case that there are simply fewer children being born. Some villages have only three children, yet the Thai government has failed to understand the economic destabilization which the country is facing because of this radical decrease in population. Instead, parents are commended for patriotism if they limit themselves to only one child. At this rate we can expect that, by the year 2115, the elderly will make up over one-quarter of the population, or 26.2%.

Bleak future

Between 1985 and 1986, in 25 villages in the region there were no births at all. In over 50% of the 1,320 villages in the region, there were fewer than 9 births in that same year. In 132 villages, the population growth rate was already negative. One hundred and four villages had zero population growth; 61% showed an increase of 1.4%; and the remaining 261 villages had a rate of growth of only 1.5%.

This same phenomenon is also reflected in the primary school registration rate for first grade, which has decreased from around 40,000 in the first half of the 1970s to half that in 1986. Thus where in 1967, classroom size for first grade, in a sample of 342 primary schools, varied between 30 and 59 students, by 1989, there were 33 schools that had been closed down due to lack of pupils, and 54 schools had fewer than 10 pupils in all of the grades together. Only two of the schools sampled had more than 60 pupils. Another metric is the decline of children between the ages of zero to four as a proportion of the population: In 1960, the proportion was 16%; by 2010, we can expect that it will be no more than 7%.

If we project this trend line 100 years into the future, the entire village population of Thailand will be wiped out. Presently there is an apparent increase in prosperity—per capita family income is higher—even in the poorer village homes, because with only one child in a family and more than one generation of adults, in which both men and women are now free to work, everyone brings in some money. Serious problems will arise, however, as this population ages, and the burden for caring for the elderly falls on the shoulders of the present generation of children.

A labor shortage will also develop, making the cost of labor artificially high. This trend is exacerbated by the failure to use technology to increase the productivity of the agricultural work force.

These are the problems which I have only now begun to understand. I have tried to warn people of this in Thailand, and also to discuss this with demographers and others involved with family planning internationally, but so far I have had little success. In fact my funding has dried up. I am continuing my research on this, but this past year I have had to use my own funds, and these are limited.

International Reactions

Opposition grows to Cairo conference

The following is a selection of recent statements in opposition to the Cairo conference's malthusian agenda. A statement by the African Academy of Sciences was published in EIR, Jan. 28, 1994, p. 8, and excerpts from Pope John Paul II's remarks to conference secretary general Dr. Nafis Sadik were in our issue of April 8, p. 18.

Pope John Paul II, letter to President Clinton, released on April 4 by the U.S. Embassy to the Vatican, according to this report from the April 7 issue of the *Arlington Catholic Herald*:

The pope called the draft document “a disturbing surprise” and asked Clinton to “reflect deeply and in conscience” on the Cairo documents attitudes toward sexuality, marriage and abortion.

The agenda of the Cairo meeting, he said, will touch on issues important for the future of humanity, “including the well-being and development of peoples, the growth of world population, the rise of the median age in some industrialized countries, the fight against disease and forced displacement of whole peoples.”

The pope continued, “Civil authorities have a duty, in effect, to strive to promote the harmonious growth of the family, not only from the point of view of its social vitality, but also from that of its moral and spiritual health.”

U.S. Catholic Bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities, statement released on April 4 in Washington, D.C., according to the April 7 *Arlington Catholic Herald*:

The committee said that the draft document's “good points” about dignity, rights, and obligations of men and women are “undermined—indeed, negated—by a disturbing ideology of ‘reproductive rights’ and lifestyle ‘choice’ that permeates the entire document.” The statement was directed at the April 4-22 U.N. meeting which is preparing the draft document.

The bishops' statement says that the draft program of action ignores basic principles of Catholic thinking on

population issues.

Peruvian Bishops Conference, statement reported by the Lima daily *La República*, April 15:

The bishops denounced “the new thrust launched by powerful multinational interests” against population growth. They state that they agree with the pope that all “propaganda and disinformation seeking to convince couples that they should limit family size to one or two children, must be avoided.” Abortion is “an execrable evil,” and sterilization “a grave threat to human dignity and liberty.”

“We believe that it is opportune to repeat the same warnings in our country where, unfortunately, not a few share the anti-natalist and eugenicist vision that is being promoted by the United Nations Population Fund,” they state, calling on the government of Peru “not to allow itself to be influenced by the false arguments, which lack all statistical or scientific support, that attempt to establish a direct link between population growth and economic development. . . . Upon the uprightness, courage, and independence with which our authorities design population policy today, will depend not only the judgment that awaits them from God, from history, and from their own consciences, but also the fate that millions of Peruvians will have to face in the near future.”

Cardinal Antonio Quarracino, Argentina, April 19:

If the draft document being discussed by the preparatory commission for the Cairo conference on Development, Family, and Population is the definitive text presented at that conference, “it will be a real disaster, because not only is the text worthless, but it is perverse.” Cardinal Quarracino states, “That text does not define the family. . . . It says that there are various types of families, such that the traditional and valid definition of the family as the permanent union of man and woman is erased . . . so that there can be a family made up of two men and two women, or a family of homosexuals.”

The Argentine cardinal also attacks the document’s defense of adoption of children by homosexual couples, advocacy of abortion, and promotion of adolescent sexual activity. Quarracino warns that if the document isn’t changed, “this year, which is called the International Year of the Family, will end up being called the International Year of the Degraded Family. This is not God’s will.”

Arturo Frondizi, former President of Argentina, letter to Pope John Paul II dated April 12:

“I inform you,” wrote Frondizi, “of my condemnation of the aims which the conference on population organized by the United Nations in Cairo hopes to achieve. . . . May you hear my prayers to the Lord that rulers once and for all will

embrace those spiritual, ethical, and religious values which reside in the soul of poor peoples who are victims of underdevelopment.”

Dr. Frondizi referenced his August 1993 letter to U.S. President Bill Clinton expressing his concern over problems in Ibero-America and the world “and the situation of political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche who, finally through an act of justice, has been freed.” The former Argentine President said that he joined with the pontiff “in your energetic condemnation of abortion, whose practice you have called ‘the culture of death.’ ” He included in his letter a copy of his recent speech to the Second Conference of the Federation for World Peace, in which he called for a war against the drug cartels and “the usury of the billions of dollars circulated by the international drug trade as a form of subjugation of poor peoples.”

Chris Smith, U.S. congressman (R-N.J.), press conference at the United Nations, April 8:

Smith called on leaders of developing sector countries to “resist and reject” moves by the U.S. government to promote abortion as part of the Cairo agenda. “Don’t allow your government to be bullied or pushed around,” Smith said, while the Cairo preparatory committee meeting was taking place. “Continue to stand on the principle that all human life—including unborn children—is precious and sacred.”

Smith charged that “some of the world’s most powerful, rich, all-knowing elitists think there are just too many of us walking around and are taking draconian steps to impose a final solution to rid the planet, once and for all, of big families and hundreds of millions of little children. Developing countries,” he said, “are slated to absorb the biggest hit in the years ahead.”

Smith warned that “a new frightening chapter in the ‘brave new world’ of aggressive population control is taking shape right here in New York—with the expectation of completing the action plan in Cairo in the Fall.

“Abortion on demand is being touted this year as a means of ‘thinning the herd,’ as if human beings were cattle or deer. This approach absolutely devalues, devastates, and dehumanizes unborn babies of all races, color, and gender. This approach is anti-child and sick.”

Smith also charged that the State Department recently cabled every U.S. embassy and mission abroad, urging that they lobby their host governments to support “stronger language on the importance of access to abortion services” in the draft program for Cairo. The cables called abortion on demand a “priority” issue for the United States and a “fundamental right.”

Smith called on leaders of developing countries to “resist all pressure to destroy the children of your homeland in the name of population control. Future generations will honor you for defending the gift of life.”