

U.N. Copenhagen summit opens 50th anniversary with a dismal failure

by Poul Rasmussen

That the United Nations is not the institution upon which the peoples of the world should rely to eradicate poverty, unemployment, and social disintegration, became obvious from its first summit this year, which marks the 50th anniversary of its founding. Despite the fact that the U.N. World Summit on Social Development that took place in Copenhagen over March 6-12 was the largest summit in history, bringing together 121 heads of state and government, nothing was conceived or decided upon that would relieve the suffering of the millions of disenfranchised people around the globe.

Adding to the undeniable stench of failure was the fact that the Copenhagen summit took place in the midst of an accelerating global financial disintegration, highlighted by the dramatic fall of the dollar and the wild turbulence on the world currency markets, precipitated by the Mexican crisis and the collapse of the Britain's oldest banking institution, Barings Bank, just a few days earlier.

As *EIR* forecast in its March 3 issue, the summit's final communiqué turned out to be empty phrases. In a list of "Ten Commandments," the world leaders committed themselves, among other things, to:

- "create favorable economic, political, social and legal conditions which could facilitate social development;"
- "through national programs and international collaboration to eradicate poverty;"
- "bring about full employment as a main pillar in our economic and social policies;"
- "promote full respect for human dignity;"
- "accelerate the development of the economic and social areas as well as the human potential in Africa and the least developed countries."

It borders on criminal neglect when 121 world leaders meet in the middle of an unprecedented, global economic breakdown, and all they come up with is an empty list of nothing. The heads of state and government all share the responsibility for the failure of the Copenhagen Summit to produce any program of substance, but the greatest burden of guilt lies with the host—the United Nations.

What quickly became clear is that the United Nations is not a forum to address economic and social programs,

and is a place where any such attempt will run afoul of the permanent "hidden agenda" of all U.N. institutions, namely, the drive to dismantle national sovereignty and impose a world government. This evil ideology simply distorts all discussions, and all potential solutions become twisted into a bid for "more power to the U.N."

IMF austerity regimes defended

In the draft program of action presented to the summit, underdeveloped nations had formulated rigorous demands for an immediate change of the genocidal policies of the Structural Adjustment Programs of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. At Copenhagen, the ringleaders of the U.N. apparatus twisted the discussion toward granting the U.N. the political oversight of both the IMF and World Bank, which are U.N. agencies in any case—far from what the underdeveloped nations had had in mind: They wanted to get rid of the IMF dictatorship, not transfer it to the United Nations. The result of this manipulated discussion was that the "Eighth Commandment" of the final communiqué lamely calls upon the IMF and World Bank to "include elements of social development" in their conditionalities.

Even the empty "20-20 principle," which had been touted to become the crowning glory of the Copenhagen summit, suffered considerably from the U.N. bid for more power. Instead of a discussion about making development aid more oriented toward social development by having the poorer nations allocate at least 20% of their budget for that purpose, the discussion became a demand for these countries to give up their sovereignty, by granting the U.N. the right to intervene and change their national budgets, in order to force compliance with the required 20% for social development. The proposal so infuriated the Third World delegates that the "20-20 principle" was not even included in the "Ten Commandments," although it is still found in a watered-down version in the final communiqué.

Talk of debt moratorium gagged

The only issue on the agenda which could have made a significant impact on the ongoing global economic crisis,

namely the call for a general cancellation of the debt owed by underdeveloped countries—which had been included in the draft program of action as an item to be decided upon at the summit—became the victim of U.N. gag tactics.

It had been expected that Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen would announce, in his opening remarks to the summit, that Denmark was immediately cancelling the debts owed to it by six underdeveloped nations. This was meant to set the tone for a discussion of a general debt moratorium; but it never happened. Apparently, somebody in the U.N. apparat convinced Mr. Nyrup Rasmussen to forgo any mention of this in his opening speech. (The announcement appeared the next day in a short press release issued by the Danish development minister.)

Hence, the first day of deliberations did not address, as expected, the debt issue, but rather centered on discussion about the creation of an “Economic Security Council,” a topic directly lifted from the pages of the Commission on Global Governance report, “Our Global Neighborhood.”

Still, it was evident from the numerous discussions that *EIR* correspondents had with the delegates from many nations at the conference center, that recent dramatic events in the world financial markets have made a deep impression on most government officials. Unfortunately, it was also evident that the absence of constructive solutions to the serious economic problems, of the sort proposed by American statesman and economist Lyndon LaRouche, had left government leaders open to U.N. manipulation.

The most striking example was the call for an international tax on financial transactions proposed by French President François Mitterrand. The President’s call certainly reflected a genuine concern about the harm to the world economy—not to mention the effects felt in France itself—caused by the gigantic financial bubble, totaling \$1 trillion in speculative transactions every day. But in the world of the U.N., this means something quite different: This is a way for the U.N. to grab a right—the right of taxation—otherwise inherent only to sovereign nations, and the proposal is for the money to finance U.N. operations, another dream from the report on “Our Global Neighborhood.”

The proposal didn’t get anywhere, but Commission Chairman Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson and his cohorts in the Commission on Global Agenda will probably do their best to keep this discussion alive until the U.N.’s 50th anniversary conference in the fall.

Nothing achieved, no one satisfied

The Copenhagen summit proposed nothing that would alleviate the present global economic crisis, and left fanatics from both the “free-market” and “social engineering” circles in states of high dudgeon.

The Copenhagen Declaration call for full employment and investment in productive activities set the free-marketeers gnashing their teeth, all the more so after suffering

through explicit attacks on free market economics. Former Danish Minister of Taxation Anders Fogh Rasmussen, vice chairman of the Danish Liberal Party and a die-hard partisan of Milton Friedman, told the Danish daily *Politiken* on March 13: “The summit has seriously questioned if the forces of the free market could solve the problems of poverty. By doing so, the summit went in the completely wrong direction.”

Happy to say, the U.N. one-worlders did not gain anything from the summit, either. In the last of the “Ten Commandments” of the Copenhagen Declaration, the world leaders pledge that they will commit themselves to “create a better and stronger framework for the international, regional and subregional collaboration for the furthering of social development through the U.N. and other multinational institutions”—a far cry from the original plans for a world military, a world tax, etc. that were at one time prominently featured in the summit’s “Global Agenda.”

Silajdzic blasts U.N. ‘hypocrisy’

On March 11, Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic blasted the U.N.’s “hypocrisy” during the summit’s plenary session: “I have listened to most of the addresses by the distinguished speakers, and I found almost nothing that I disagree with,” he said. “The problem is that reality disagrees with us. . . . I say that Bosnia represents the exact opposite of what we declare as our goal today. The aggression on Bosnia has been supported twice by the international community: first by imposing an arms embargo upon a country, victim of aggression, and second by maintaining the status quo that leads to the legalization of the gains by force and genocide. . . .

“But a distinguished speaker said that we must put children first. We in Bosnia wonder if we have any children left. Seventeen thousand children have been killed in Bosnia during the last three years. Those living, some with gray hair and eyes and hearts of old men, are hardly children any more. Still, they are our only future and, yes, we also want to put them first. Not the first to die, not the first on the firing line, but the first to live. If we want to build that world for our children, your children, all children, we must do what it takes.”

He continued his barrage in the closing session the next day: “How can we seriously talk about assuming global leadership if some 50 Security Council resolutions relevant to Bosnia remain dead letters on paper?” He continued: “Can we take seriously the U.N. Charter, knowing the fact that a U.N. member has been denied the right of self-defense? How can we discuss the reallocation of financial means from defense to social development if the law of force is openly promoted? How can we talk about order if we do not know what to do with those whose idea of economy is plunder and loot, and who believe in ethnic cleansing as the ultimate cure for social problems?” he demanded. As Shakespeare wrote in *Hamlet, The Prince of Denmark*: “The rest is silence.”