

# WWF leads 'chainsaw demonstration' against President Clinton

by Rogelio A. Maduro

On July 27, President Clinton made a decision to ignore the advice from his environmentalist advisers and to sign the Rescission Act, which contained clauses intended to revive the forest industry in the United States and to protect the health of these forests. This decision triggered an explosion of attacks on the President from both the "respectable" and the "terrorist" wings of the environmentalist movement.

Less than 24 hours after the President had signed the law, over 150 environmentalists demonstrated in front of the White House with the leaders of most of the major environmental groups, threatening the President with roaring chainsaws in a "21 chainsaw salute." The demonstration had been organized by the World Wildlife Fund and the Sierra Club, and the most prominent signs were those displayed by the WWF (see p. 24). An observer told *EIR*, "The event looked like a scene from the horror movie 'The Chainsaw Massacre.' You had 21 people, men and women, gunning their chainsaws in the air toward the White House, as if to say: We're coming to get you."

An article in the Aug. 19 *Washington Post* noted, "Some environmental leaders . . . have taken off the gloves against the White House, which they feel should be taking a higher-profile stance in favor of environmental regulations. 'Clinton is not even trying to be the environmental President,' said Sierra Club [executive director Carl] Pope. 'He seems to have made a political calculation that the public is not so concerned about these issues, and that's a terrible mistake.'"

While the "respectable" environmentalists taking part in this demonstration might publicly deny that they have anything to do with terrorism, in fact, in the words of a German court finding recently, the collaboration between Greenpeace and the Earth First! terrorists cannot be denied.

Speakers at the Washington demonstration included: Robbie Cox, Sierra Club; president, US PIRG, Gene Karpinski; executive director, Natural Resources Defense Council, Greg Wetstone; legislative director, The Wilderness Society, Jon Roush; president, World Wildlife Fund, William Eichbaum; vice president, Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, Kevin Kirchner; vice president, National Audubon Society, Elizabeth Raisbeck; senior vice president, Defenders of Wildlife, Jim Wyrman; vice president, Clean Water Action, John Friedrich; national political director, Western Ancient Forest Alliance, Jay Lee; acting executive director, Friends

of the Earth, Brent Blackwelder; president, American Oceans, Dawn Martin; political director, Center for Marine Conservation, Roger McManus; president, Pacific Rivers Council, Jud Noritake; national policy director, Americans Mobilized to Protect the Environment, Chuck Clusen.

Perhaps the real fear of the greens, as expressed by Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope at a press conference a few days after the demonstration, is that President Clinton has broken with Theodore Roosevelt's tradition. "Instead of doing what Theodore Roosevelt intended with the National Forest Service, Clinton is giving our forest away to the timber industry," he said. Roosevelt prevented the development of the western part of the United States at the turn of the century by implementing a policy of "Wise Use," which locked up most of the West into national forests and parks, and ensured that federal lands were not homesteaded.

The press conference, which was sponsored by the Environmental Media Services, featured leaders from most major environmental groups. When asked why the environmentalists were attacking Clinton for signing a bill that was sent to him by a Republican congressional majority, they answered that Clinton is worsening what has already happened in Congress, and that it created a precedent: Now that Congress knows the kind of compromise Clinton is ready to make, they will send him other bills like that.

"We've supported the Clinton-Gore ticket, but today, I could not get someone to second the motion, because there would even not be a first," said a Sierra Club spokesman. A woman from Zero Population Growth, who is a member of the President's Council on Sustainable Development, was also present on the panel. When asked, "Where is Al Gore in all of this?" she replied: "Al Gore is vice president, but Clinton is President."

## The 'salvage rider'

The green attacks on Clinton, more than anything else, expose the real agenda of the environmentalist movement and the extent to which they are willing to lie to the public. The salvage rider, in fact, is very good environmental policy. It revives a traditional forest policy of cutting down dead and diseased trees to protect the health of the ecosystem as a whole. Salvage timber, as defined in the bill, is "the removal of trees that are diseased or insect-infested, dead, damaged,

down, burned or 'immediately susceptible' to being burned or eaten by bugs." Thus, logging companies are allowed to cut the trees before they rot or spread disease and pests to healthy forests. This is a crucial policy, since there are now millions of acres of diseased forests as a result of previous environmental prohibitions.

The bill also effectively blocks, for the next 18 months, any groups from being able to obtain a restraining order to stop "salvage timber logging" on pretext of environmental degradation, after the contract is given. In addition to preserving healthy forests from the ravages of pests and diseases, the bill will provide a much-needed source of timber for the logging industry and the construction industry. Many areas of the Pacific Northwest have been closed to logging by insane environmental regulations, throwing the region into economic crisis.

### Earth First! calls for 'day of sacrifice'

The WWF-orchestrated chainsaw demonstration at the White House was followed by an even more direct threat to the President. The Aug. 1 issue of the *Earth First! Journal*, the official newspaper of the terrorist group Earth First!, attacks President Clinton over the salvage timber law, making a not-too-veiled call for his assassination. The focus of the issue is the promotion of the pagan (druid) concept of sacrificing a leader to celebrate the festival of Lughnasadah, to appease the pagan deities and to bring in new leadership.

The *Journal's* lead story claims that Clinton had set off an "apocalypse" by signing this bill, and states that "we have no choice but to revolt." Underneath that statement there is a picture of a man firing a gun against a tree with the caption, "That pioneering spirit lives on!" The article ends with the proposed occupation of one of the salvage sale areas, as well as other actions that can be undertaken by Earth First!ers to help organize what they call "the Salvage Rebellion."

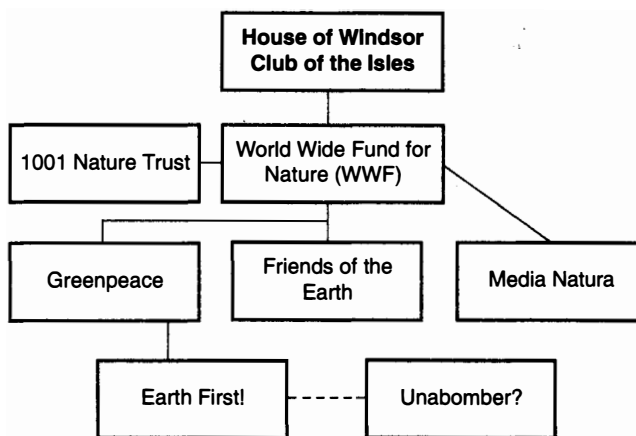
Elsewhere in the issue, there is a "poetic description" of the pagan festival of Lughnasadah, whose date is used to publish that particular issue of the *Earth First! Journal* (the *Journal* is published eight times a year on the major pagan holidays). The "poem," written by Peggy Sue McRae, a blueblood who has made Earth First! her public cause, reads as follows:

"Lughnasadah is a harvest festival that marks the beginning of the autumnal season. Lugh, the Celtic sun god, reached the pinnacle of his power at summer solstice. He now falls to his death, bleeding crimson light in the western sky.

"A harvest festival, Lughnasadah ('cutting of first wheat') is also the time of sacrifice and the time for a leveling of power. Celtic historian Margaret Murry postulates that ancient Celts ritually killed their tribal leaders every seven years. Near Lindow, England, the body of a druid prince was found perfectly preserved in a peat bog. It is believed that the 'Lindow Man' was ritually killed at the time of the early

FIGURE 1

### Prince Philip's eco-terrorist command



Roman invasions of Britain.

"In our own culture, power is increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few megacorporations. The mass communications industry controlled by these megacorporations continually bombards us. Communications theorist Howard Rhaingold explains: 'Why torture people when you can get them to pay for access to electronic mind control? Lughnasadah is a day for ritual sacrifice.'

"Kill your television."

A death threat to opponents of Earth First!, or just a fanciful hallucination?

Private investigator Barry Clausen, who infiltrated Earth First! in the early 1990s and wrote a book about it, *Walking on the Edge*, told *EIR* that he takes this "very seriously" as a death threat. In his years of experience dealing with Earth First!, he has seen that in many cases, companies and individuals targeted by *Earth First! Journal* became the victims of bombings, arson, or sabotage. He said that this threat should be seen in the context of the "hit list" that appeared in a 1990 issue of the underground newspaper *Live Wild or Die* (see *EIR*, Aug. 18, "Is the Unabomber's Skin Green?"). The so-called Unabomber has sent bombs to two of the three top targets on that "hit list." This underground newspaper is distributed by leaders of Earth First! Clausen added that he has called the Secret Service and filed an official report on the threat.

Clausen recently issued a report that documents more than 150 acts of terrorism in the United States and Canada since 1983. It concludes that "two groups, the Animal Liberation Front and Earth First!, are responsible for the majority of crimes and damages," and criticizes the FBI and the Justice Department for not taking action to stop these acts of terrorism and for failing to report their occurrence in the FBI's 1994 annual report on terrorism in the United States.

Some of the other provisions in the Rescissions bill signed by Clinton includes billions of dollars in relief, related to the Oklahoma bombing, and for the creation of a Center to monitor domestic terrorism, as well as an increase in funding for anti-terrorism.

The connection between the chainsaw demonstration in front of the White House and the Earth First! threat is more direct than meets the eye. The terrorist group was founded in 1979 with money from the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society. Earth First! founder David Foreman, then a lobbyist for the Wilderness Society, was asked to launch an eco-terrorist group that would be "so extreme it would make even the most radical environmentalist groups seem tame by comparison."

Foreman, according to one published account, "made the deal . . . under the condition that funding would be steady and adequate, and that his participation was a limited-term ten-year deal." After his ten years were up, Foreman moved on to create the Wildlands Project, with lavish funding from the major foundations. This project has been officially cited as the model for the Biodiversity Convention, now a United Nations international treaty. In June of this year, Foreman, still recognized as the world's leading eco-terrorist, was

made a member of the board of the directors of the Sierra Club.

The direct connections between mainstream environmental groups and eco-terrorist groups were proven in court recently. On July 28, a three-judge panel in the German city of Hamburg ruled that "the collaboration of Greenpeace with the terrorist organizations Earth First!" cannot be denied (see *EIR*, Sept. 1, "Greenpeace Is Linked to Earth First!"). Greenpeace had sued a German publishing house for making that connection in a press release advertising a showing of the Danish film exposé of Greenpeace, "The Rainbow Man." In response to the suit, Böttiger Verlag DmbH provided the German judges with a dossier documenting the extensive collaboration between Greenpeace and Earth First! The dossier also contained details on the collaboration between Earth First!, the Sierra Club, the World Wildlife Fund/World Wide Fund for Nature, and other "respectable" green organizations.

Given the court decision, the death threats against Clinton and Chirac, and the connection between Earth First! and the Unabomber, isn't it time for the U.S. Justice Department to start investigating the real origins of terrorism, before it is too late?

## The pernicious influence of Greenpeace in Germany

*Helmut Böttiger, director of the Böttiger Verlag publishing company in Germany, tells EIR about his court battle with Greenpeace:*

**EIR:** You were recently sued by Greenpeace. Can you give us some history concerning your involvement with the environmental debate in Germany?

**Böttiger:** Our publications promote scientific and technological progress. We were often shocked by the impertinent lies of the so-called environmentalists within money-grubbing organizations and governments. We published articles against such lies, not against specific organizations. When we wrote about a certain film which was critical of Greenpeace, suddenly we found ourselves attacked by Greenpeace before a Hamburg court.

**EIR:** How would you estimate Greenpeace's influence in Germany?

**Böttiger:** The court case forced me to look more deeply into Greenpeace; I was astounded to find how much they influence public opinion. The media follow the Greenpeace

line obediently on environmental questions. You will hardly find any public event about environmental issues, by a political party or a government institution, where there is no Greenpeace representative on the podium.

**EIR:** How did a country like Germany, which developed the modern chemical industry, the jet airplane, and laid the basis for space travel, become so extremely anti-technology?

**Böttiger:** It's simple. Things with a certain relation to technological progress or Classical art over the years were more and more branded as "Nazi." For instance, nuclear energy is painted as "fascist." Members of Parliament from the Social Democrats, Christian Democrats, Free Democrats, and of course the Greens have slandered our publishing house as "rightwing-radical, anti-Semitic, and sectarian," for no other reason than our support for nuclear energy and technological progress. This reminds me, in the early 1930s, when the Nazi ideology (not necessarily anti-Semitism, but everything else), was imitated, to one degree or another, by all the so-called democratic parties.

The fact is that the new fascism today is really green "antifascism," and there is no resistance to it, because the older people, who certainly know better, have been silenced, finding themselves accused of being old-fashioned and themselves fascist.