

'Discourage keeping people alive'

At the congressional Office of Technology Assessment, reports Lonnie Wolfe, they are working with State's population killers.

Agencies within the U.S. State Department are working from a classified list of countries to be triaged in accordance with the prescriptions of the *Global 2000 Report*, sources at the congressional Office of Technology Assessment confirmed last week. The OTA itself is involved in the effort to cut world population growth by 2 billion people, according to one of its officials, Louise Williams. In concert with State's Office of Population Affairs and the Agency for International Development, as well as personnel from the National Security Council, the OTA is preparing a report on "The Population Crisis in the Developing Sector." The report will be couched in terms of contraceptive methods, but its message will be that "whole parts of the world must be written off," as Williams puts it.

The OTA staff, funded at a \$13 million annual level, is working with reports that call for classification of countries by likelihood of survival, ending with an "impossible" category. "Why should aid be given to countries that cannot survive?" said an OTA demographer. "It is a waste of precious resources." The State Department is already conducting its planning on this basis, OTA emphasizes.

Founded in 1972 through the initiative of Sen. Ted Kennedy and one of his advisers, Club of Rome member Michael Michaelis, OTA has consistently pressed for U.S. aid to the developing nations to promote small-scale, backward technologies and brute manual labor. OTA head John H. Gibbons, has directed various university and government energy-conservation and environmental quality programs for many years. The previous OTA chief was Russell Peterson, a board member of the U.S. Club of Rome and the World Wildlife Fund, president of the National Audubon Society, and a leading public supporter of the Global 2000 perspective.

OTA has produced reports attacking the supersonic passenger aircraft, pesticides, chemical fertilizers, tractors, advanced medical technology, international nuclear technology sales, and the U.S. nuclear fusion research program. According to the OTA, biomass is preferable to fusion, which requires a more centralized economy.

The following is excerpted from an interview with Louise Williams, a staff member of the Office of Technology Assessment involved in drafting a special report on the "Population Crisis in the Developing Countries." The interview was made available to the EIR by an investigative journalist.

Q: I understand you are preparing a report for Congress on the population crisis in the developing sector.

A: I really cannot talk about it directly. It is a very sensitive subject. What it will be is a series on options for Congress. On one level it will focus on new contraceptive technologies and how they can be used. Where it gets tricky is that once we release the report we want a lot of publicity, but not now. The report will be the basis for the discussion of the population crisis, and get people oriented to how bad things really are. It is much safer to couch this discussion in objective facts.

People are going to have to be written off. Many people just won't make it—whole countries. Look at China; people say that it has a fine population program. Let's face it, China is doing a lot, but it is doing it over dead bodies. Tens of millions of people have been wiped out in China over the years. . . . In many countries, the task is impossible. Bangladesh won't make it. It comes down to counting bodies in some places and saying that there are too many. In many cases, policy must be to deliberately discourage programs that might keep people alive. . . .

There is a plain outside Dacca in Bangladesh where millions of people live. It is not good for growing anything, but people live there anyway. Every few years there is a flood that kills millions of people. Yet after each flood more people move back. Should we stop that process? The answer is no. It is natural population control. Let the people die, because we know that these people and all of Bangladesh will likely die in the long run.

We have worked closely with the Population Crisis Committee. There is much more going on. People over at State are doing classified planning about which coun-

tries in the developing sector can be saved. No one wants to talk about this publicly, but people know that whole parts of the developing sector will have to be written off. It takes time to translate this into foreign policy.

The bad part is that many of these countries contain resources that are vital to the U.S. and they could become valuable trading partners, under better circumstances. But look, this is not out of line. The World Bank and International Monetary Fund are already making these kind of decisions in the way they give out development credit. They don't say they are, but look at their policy. It is triage. . . .

East Africa is going down the tubes, and it will pull others along with it. The famine in the Sahel, as horrible as it is, seems to serve a purpose. It reduces population. More importantly, it serves as an object lesson. It helps us convince people that we must take drastic planned measures. It sells our ideas. . . . There are many people over at State who say that this is more valuable than if we could save all the starving people for a while. . . .

Q: Should our aid programs be geared to this concept of which countries should and should not be saved?

A: Should it? Yes. Is it being done? Not yet; it takes time. This challenges basic American assumptions about our humanitarian instincts. . . . Americans don't understand demographics. They believe that growth can solve things, anything. The *Global 2000 Report* goes into the teeth of this belief, which is why it is so hard for people to swallow. It presents all the arguments a sane person would need to reach the conclusion that hundreds of millions of people are not going to survive. By saying that little can be done to avoid this result, it gets people ready to accept horrors, and plan for them.

We have to be very, very careful. I think these things, but you won't find them written in the report. We can't use the word "triage decision." That would scare people. You people in the press, you should write your stories with these ideas. Get the population radicalized, and then people in the Congress will turn to the report and say, "Give me a copy, there are facts here that explain these horrors." We are going to construct the report so that only a fool could reach any other conclusion. But that is a really delicate job.

Q: What do you think the White House reaction will be to what you are doing?

A: I can't say. Right now, if they found out what we are doing, they and some of their toadies in Congress would jump down our throat. Timing is critical. You know we are working with some of those people over at the CEQ [the White House Council on Environmental Quality, which prepared the *Global 2000 Report*] whom Reagan's people fired. The report will not come out until June. There will be a climate for it by then.

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