
CONFERENCE REPORT

The Club of Rome launches its Latin American 'pilot project'

by Gretchen Small

How can a small group of men and women most efficiently induce—or coerce—the world's governments and peoples, starting with Latin America as a "pilot project," to turn over their rights of self-government to a "one-world" government? That was the central item on the agenda for the Club of Rome's 1981 annual conference held June 16 through 19 in Caracas, Venezuela. Some 250 delegates from more than 40 countries attended, listening to presentations from about 80 speakers on such topics as "The New International Order—A Challenge to the Capacity to Govern." Although the conference was organized around the theme "Alternatives for Humankind: Mission for Latin America," a review of the speeches and debates of these men and women leads an objective observer to the conclusion that "Alternatives to Humankind" was the real subject of their planning. The Club of Rome is an elite spinoff of NATO and the OECD, founded in 1968.

On one level, the Caracas '81 conference was a successful coup for the Club of Rome. The first annual conference ever held in a Third World country, this year's was not only financed but officially cosponsored by the government of Venezuela. President Luis Herrera Campins, in fact, opened the conference; several cabinet ministers addressed the body; and top government bureaucrats and politicians attended throughout, on government encouragement. The extensive media coverage of the event impressed and pleased the Club members immensely, as several noted in their speeches. For days, their Malthusian ideas were aired on national TV, and in page after page of coverage in the local press.

Reality was not wholly excluded from the event, however. This "Caracas adventure" must have "fallen like a pearl" in the lap of Aurelio Peccei (a Club of Rome founder), a columnist in one of Caracas' major dailies, *El Nacional*, commented following the conference: "What more can he want in these calamitous times, but to live far from Rome, stirred by the scandal of the Propaganda-2 Lodge, in which saints and sinners, civilians and military, believers and Masons," have been

implicated. "The Club of Rome does well to travel," the column, titled "Fasten Your Seatbelt," drily noted.

The columnist's reference to the scandal around the Masonic P-2 lodge led by Mussolini secret police officer Licio Gelli was an understatement. Peccei and the Club of Rome as an institution have already been exposed as assets of the P-2 Lodge, whose members are now being hunted down internationally on charges of crimes ranging from murder and terrorism to bribery and speculation.

The timely cosponsorship by the Herrera Campins government in Caracas (the government, it must be noted, that Secretary of State Haig and his assistant secretary Thomas Enders insist is the United States' best ally in the area) was precisely the step of official recognition and legitimization needed by the Club of Rome.

The topic on the agenda, however, was how to pull in the rest of the continent—thus securing Latin America as a primary base of operations for eliminating national sovereignty internationally.

An experiment

Confronted with the still-strong commitment of most of the world's governments to the principle of their sovereign right to develop their nations, for the past two years the Club of Rome has shifted its focus to the creation of powerful regional blocs as an intermediate step toward the creation of the "one-world" government they envisage. Club sociologists argue that countries will more easily cede aspects of their sovereignty to regional bodies, through which more and more of the "global goals" sought by this crowd can be introduced.

Of the different regions of the world, Latin America is best suited to dedicating itself to "undertakings of a planetary scope," Peccei stressed in his opening speech before the conference, since it is "neither so developed as to be captive to an essentially materialist civilization," nor so poor as to be concerned only with its survival.

Latin America should be a "pilot project" on how

to introduce our ideas through a "regional base oriented to the global," Yehezkel Dror announced during the panel on the "New International Order—a Challenge to the Capacity to Govern."

Club member Dror, a professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem who created the theory of "states gone crazy" for such countries as Iran and Libya, presented one of the most sophisticated—and openly Nazi—speeches of the entire conference. Dror's hatred is directed at the present world structure based on "sovereign nation-states," which allows governments and leaders to focus on the "microconsiderations" of the needs of their populations.

Only a small elite of a "few highly qualified persons" will ever be able to make the brutal decisions required by the long-range decline of the universe he foresees, Dror emphasized. An immediate priority must therefore be placed by the Club of Rome on the creation of a few institutions to serve as training centers for this elite, Dror said, suggesting a "School for Global Policy" and an "Institute of Higher Studies in Global Policy." The legions of genocidal planners coming out of these institutions can then induce most governments—like the Venezuelans—to follow their prescriptions.

But, Dror warned, we must "firmly confront the fact" that there exist governments that are totally against the international order—sovereign governments, which he equated with Nazi Germany because they refuse to go along with international law! Dror left unspoken his suggestions for dealing with such regimes.

Other speakers made specific proposals on how to overcome the tremendous resistance to their policies. Ervin Laszlo, the head of Unitar, one of the many branches of the United Nations, proposed that a Central Common Fund be set up modeled on the European Community Common Agricultural Fund, which could finance regional ventures. Those countries that lose markets or industries as a result of concessions required by joining a regional agreement would be recompensed by the Fund; those that gained should contribute.

Cultural and educational programs as means to introduce issues of "global concerns" on a mass-scale was another focus of the conference. Venezuela's minister of intelligence, Luis Alberto Machado, urged the Club of Rome to initiate the founding of an "International Alliance for the Development of Intelligence," which would push the controversial education programs he has implemented in Venezuela, programs that were developed out of the artificial intelligence project of the 1960s and treat the human mind as nothing more than a defective computer.

An immediate target of the Club of Rome futurologists is the mid-October heads of state summit scheduled to take place in Cancún, Mexico. On the agenda there is the future direction of North-South relations, and Club

kooks hope to seize control of the discussions in advance. If Latin America can be won over, these futurologists hope, they stand a better chance of breaking down opposition from other countries—including opposition they foresee from the executive group under Reagan—to their one-world program.

According to one U.S. Club member, just returned from the Caracas meeting, the Club is planning to invite all participants in the North-South meeting to a "pre-meeting" in Vienna, Austria at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in September, where they hope to convince national representatives that they cannot discuss "narrow nationalist issues" at Cancún.

Mexico, however, a republic whose commitment to national sovereignty is the base of all its institutions, remains a big obstacle to the whole scheme, especially as it is the host country to the October summit. Peccei, along with several others, left Caracas straight for Mexico, to head up a similar conference of genocidal technicians that took place there at the end of June (see Dateline Mexico).

Peccei's Mexico meeting, however, was met with demonstrations and a growing scandal around the P-2 sponsors of the Club of Rome that is rapidly becoming the center of Mexican politics. Despite the smooth sailing in Caracas, Peccei's crowd may not find the same elsewhere.

A challenge to Peccei bursts out in Mexico

by Elsa Ennis

Latin American governments had not yet realized the full implications of the Caracas Club of Rome meeting when Club leader Aurelio Peccei was already in Acapulco running an international symposium on "futurology" and "informatic sciences" June 22-23. In Peccei's jargon, the word "informatic" means an effort to subject sovereign nations to a supranational dictatorship of U.N. technocrats and one-worldists based on control and use of information and computer systems.

The Acapulco conclave was jointly organized by the Intergovernmental Bureau of Informatics (IBI), a U.N.-sponsored agency in Rome, and the "informatic center" of Mexico's Ministry of Planning and Budget.

Besides Peccei, the Acapulco meeting included such top zero-growthers as Gerald O. Barney, the coordinator of the Carter administration's *Global 2000 Report*, the Malthusian blueprint recommending a drastic reduction of world population because of supposed resources scar-

city and lack of energy.

Another star attendee was Club of Rome founder Alexander King, who heads the International Federation of Institutes for Advanced Studies, specializing in psychological warfare techniques and propaganda for environmentalism and zero-growth. But it was Alvin Toffler, the author of futurologist bestsellers like *Future Shock* and *The Third Wave* who has achieved the most notoriety by insulting Mexico's political leadership.

Toffler's books specialize in depicting doomsday scenarios of war and destruction, especially in countries that are most resistant to the "informatic" and "technetronic" society. In *The Third Wave*, Toffler takes to an extreme the "Iran scenario" often predicted for oil-rich Mexico: "What happens . . . when Mexico begins in earnest to exploit its oil and faces a sudden, overpowering influx of petro-pesos? Will the ruling oligarchy have the desire to distribute the bulk of that wealth to Mexico's malnourished and long-suffering peasants? And can it do so rapidly enough to prevent today's low-level guerrilla activity there from exploding into a full-scale war on the doorstep of the United States?" Based on extensive profiles of Mexican-American populations in the U.S. Southwest, Toffler further speculates on the possible eruption of a separatist movement there.

A not so friendly welcome

Contrary to the lavish embrace the Club of Rome received from the Venezuelan government, the futurologist crowd ran into intense flak in Mexico. Peccei's June 23 press conference in Mexico City fell into total disarray when members of the prodevelopment Mexican Labor Party (PLM) distributed a leaflet to the journalists detailing the futurologists' "crimes against humanity."

During the press conference itself, Peccei and his friends were bombarded with hostile questions about their stated recommendations of genocide to stop population growth, their insistence on stopping Third World industrialization, and Peccei's public endorsement of cannibalism as a justifiable means of survival. The press made a special effort to find out Peccei's connections to the P-2 Masonic scandal now shaking Italy. The next day, the Mexican press was full of Peccei's desperate denials of the various accusations.

In a ceremony at the presidential residence, where the futurologists visited President López Portillo to tell him of their symposium's conclusions and plans for the future, the Mexican president warned them that "we condemn technocracy because it does not respect systems based on law, which it turns into governments of men. . . . Western experience teaches us to choose governments of law, because sooner or later, governments become corrupted, no matter how pure the technocrats appear."

The speakers' roster at the Caracas session

The Club of Rome's 1981 annual conference in Caracas on "Alternatives for Humankind: Mission for Latin America," drew many political and economic leaders, including presidents and ex-presidents of Costa Rica, Venezuela, Mexico, and Chile as scheduled speakers.

Former Venezuelan President **Rafael Caldera**, who is hoping to run for president again in 1983, spoke for a model of "pluralist solidarism" that opposes large concentrations of capital that must be tailored to the special needs of Latin American "ideology," whether socialist or capitalist. **Teodoro Petkoff**, the Maoist ex-guerrilla who was associated with French terrorist Régis Debray in the 1960s and now heads a leftist faction in Venezuela's parliament, countered that the only route to the future was a socialism that rejects the Western model of industrialization in favor of "small and medium" industries.

Despite their seeming disagreements, both speakers started from the Club of Rome's premise that the current "crisis" means that there must be "limits to growth."

Other Latin American leaders who spoke at the conference included: **Luis Herrera Campins**, Christian Democratic president of Venezuela, who said in his opening address, "It is not rare that man lives in a state of insecurity. More and more he lives in fear. Man is afraid of what he produces; he does not control his creatures; he wants to dominate creation, but he does not dominate his creations."

Eduardo Frei, former president of Chile, a member of the Brandt Commission, and head of Chile's Christian Democratic Party, who supported the 1973 Pinochet coup, advocated: "In the face of a billion hungry people, Latin America cannot continue asking for aid. I don't like nations that beg. To continue ahead, it is necessary that democracy not be a reign of ease. Liberty is responsibility and effort. We need self-discipline to solve the extremes of poverty and misery."

Felipe Herrera, former IMF director, ex-president of the Inter-American Development Bank, and now president of Unesco's International Fund for Culture, is the only Latin American on the Club of Rome's executive board. He stated: "We must begin from the fact that we are living . . . in a world [that is becoming] smaller and more concentrated, with the same resources that came from Adam and Eve, and with a tremendous numerical growth in the population."