
INTERVIEW

Club of Rome's founder Alexander King on race, population, and the Vatican

Dr. Alexander King, C.B.E., C.M.G., was a co-founder of the Club of Rome in 1967 and heads the International Federation of Institutes for Advanced Studies (IFIAS), based in Stockholm and Paris. He is also a scientific adviser to the OECD, which shapes NATO policy. He candidly described in a June 23, 1981 interview with EIR how the Club of Rome set up the environmentalist movement internationally.

In a discussion in Paris with an American visitor excerpted below, Dr. King describes a "selective" approach to population reduction geared to sugarcoat Club of Rome policies for Latin America and the Soviet Union, and exhibits the racist outlook that shapes depopulation policy.

Q: I am familiar with the work of *Global 2000* on demographics and it is my impression that the *Report* didn't go as far on this as some may have wished. . . .

A: I think *Global 2000* didn't do enough on demographics, that is certainly true. Through the group IFIAS and UNESCO, work is now being done on what we call "carrying capacity" of the land, so as to get closer to this demographic problem. My daughter, Jane King, is working on this at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, although she's currently in Geneva. She spent some years in Moscow as the cultural attaché at the British Embassy, and then decided to "go native."

Q: What kind of demographic study does this involve?

A: We are looking for a dynamic, not a static Malthusian model. Look at Hong Kong and Singapore: these are countries with no resources, but they are able to support a growing population. We have to look at things like new minerals, new industrialization, and so on. We want to look at population in terms of resources available and suggest guidelines to countries on population.

We hope to be involved in case studies for Egypt, Kenya, Tanzania, and Indonesia. Also, we want to look at Mexico. We want to look at the next 20 years and beyond. Africa will be the worst continent on the population-resource question. In Latin America, the picture is

diversified. There will be population problems in Colombia and Venezuela, but Brazil is empty in many places, although in other places there are regional problems in Brazil. Argentina can have a great increase in population, which would benefit the whole food production of the world. Another place where there is considerable demographic disparity is the Soviet Union. European Russia, including especially Moscow, has the lowest fertility rate of anywhere in the world. But the East, in Uzbekistan and other areas, the increase is the same as the rest of the world. The Soviet Union is now threatened by becoming an Asian-Islamic nation. This is a very important preoccupation now of the Kremlin.

Q: What are they doing about it?

A: Nothing. I am very often in Russia, so I discuss this. IFIAS has very good connections with scientific academies in the Soviet Union, especially on the systems science side led by a man named Gvishiani [Dzhermen Gvishiani, son-in-law of late Soviet Premier A. Kosygin]. He heads IIASA [the Vienna-based International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis—see *EIR*, Dec. 22, 1981] and is a member of the Club of Rome. I've had long discussions with Gvishiani on these problems. . . . By the year 2050, the present developed countries, including the Soviet Union, will be down to 15 percent of the world population. It is an alarming prospect. . . .

The thing to be feared is that the white world as we know it, including the U.S.S.R., could become a very highly militarized ghetto of the rich, armed with sophisticated weapons, and surrounded by a world that is overpopulated and hungry. It is precisely because of this prospect that I say we need a new international order that is more subtle and not totally economic. . . .

Q: More subtle?

A: The North-South dialogue is at an impasse. [Interrupted by telephone call]. . . . That was Sam Nilsson from Stockholm. He and I are the only ones who can make decisions for IFIAS in between board meetings. We are thinking about setting up a new institution, either

in Geneva or in Boston, that can give advice on science and technology to Third World countries.

Q: Who are the main people now backing up IFIAS's activities?

A: Robert McNamara for the past year has been a special adviser to IFIAS. Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands has been enormously helpful. Sweden's Gunnar Jarring, the former U.N. special envoy for Cyprus, and former Swedish Ambassador to the U.S.S.R. We are also talking to the Rockefeller Foundation and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund about studies relating to food and population. . . .

There *is* a change in attitude toward population control, through our efforts, I can say. For example, changes in Mexico occurred because of the Club of Rome meeting in Salzburg a few years back [in February 1974]. We had seven world leaders captive for two and a half days, ha, ha. [The Mexican President at the time, Luis] Echeverría was there, and was persuaded against all his Catholic prejudices on the need for population measures. . . . There is a corresponding thing in Europe. Look at the Pakistanis in England; England is becoming a multiracial country. In France, you have the situation with the Algerians and the Portuguese. In Switzerland, the guest workers have become a population problem. We have to get the population element taken seriously in planning. We need a methodology to measure carrying capacity, in terms of inputs and outputs of energy.

Q: I heard IFIAS is working on entropy modeling. . . .

A: Well, the entropy model is derived from the First Law of Thermodynamics. Once you have that, the question of the quality of energy comes when you do the First Law. We are working very closely with [Belgian theoretician Ilya] Prigogine on these questions. He's derived a whole program for non-equilibrium thermodynamics.

Soon, in Australia, we are having a conference on food-agriculture relationships, dealing with these matters. This will look at the whole Pacific-Southeast Asia question; it is titled "Self-Reliance, Resilience, and Interdependence." . . .

Oh, yes, this ghetto business. With the impasse in the North-South dialogue, we must look at alternative approaches to development, to regional models. Western Europe, Eastern Europe, and Japan as societies are all incredibly vulnerable. I just spoke to the former President of the Swiss Confederation, who is now a member of the Club of Rome, and he no longer pretends that Swiss national sovereignty really exists, the whole concept is bankrupt, and I think that idea is becoming current in Washington and Moscow. The problem is that no politician dares tell his country that the concept of national sovereignty is a lot of baloney. The U.S. is still vulnerable, because there are certain raw materials it doesn't

have. I want a study on these questions, and have approached the Rockefeller Brothers Fund on this. . . .

We will be using Prigogine on the conceptual side, discussing the dangers of overshoot and the like. A British scientist named Ray Beverton will head it up. We are also doing a study in New York on the loss of productive soil, with the main work originating out of the University of Sussex in England. Robert O. Anderson is funding it, he's the man from Arco. In certain cases, like Egypt, we have looked at how the building of cities, with roads and other infrastructure, has affected the soil situation. Egypt has lost more productive soil through urbanization than it has gained from the whole Aswan Dam project. We have teams from 15 countries working on this, including Tanzania, Kenya, Mexico, Russia, and China. Very interesting work on related questions is being done by one man named Rolando Garcia from the University of Mexico. Financing is coming from the Netherlands, from the U.N. Environmental Program, and from a Japanese millionaire.

Q: You referred before to the "Catholic prejudices" of Mr. Echeverria of Mexico. . . .

A: There is nothing we can do about the Vatican as such. When I say "we," by the way, you should understand that I am talking about an old-boys' network that includes the Club of Rome, IFIAS, and a very interesting group in Toronto called the Foundation for International Training, which now has 60 projects throughout the Third World.

The Vatican question is very important, but you can't go at it head-on, it won't work. The Vatican can't back down without losing face. . . . But the Club of Rome has some very good connections with the Vatican through Cardinal Koenig of Vienna. Koenig is the one who heads the Vatican Bureau for Unbelievers, the Hindus, the Buddhists, you know, the cheap white trash. [In fact, the bureau deals with communist parties—ed.]

Q: "Cheap white trash"?

A: Yes, ha, ha, you shouldn't write that down or anything like that; it's an expression you use in the South in the United States. It may not be exact for the Buddhists, in any case they're yellow.

Koenig has come to a number of Club of Rome meetings. We recently had a meeting in Salzburg on the microelectronics revolution, and Koenig was there and found it all very interesting. He's talked to the Pope about our work, not on population, but on microchips and so on, and out of this, the Pope himself has now proposed a meeting with Peccei and myself. We have other contacts in the Vatican. There is a man named Chagas from Brazil, who is Chairman of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, and he is also one of IFIAS's advisers. . . .