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Club of Life: 'We Told You So'

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# The United Nations malthusians are succeeding in depopulation

by Nancy Spannaus

*The author is president of the U.S. branch of the Club of Life.*

In August of 1984, the United Nations held a conference in Mexico City on the question of "population." As usual, that conference was dominated by malthusian doomsayers, wringing their hands about their assertion that the population of the Third World was just growing too fast to keep up with the needs of "development." With nary a sign of resistance, the representatives of the world's nations fell in line behind their reasoning, voting up resolutions that called for "controlling population growth" in the name of "progress."

The one dissonant voice at that conference came from the international Club of Life, an organization based on the Judeo-Christian commitment of the right to life for all peoples, from individuals to nations. The Club of Life distributed a document to hundreds of representatives at the conference, proclaiming that the real danger facing mankind was not "overpopulation," but "depopulation by the year 2000."

At that time, we had not yet fully realized the threat that the retrovirus AIDS represented to populations in emiserated lands. But an in-depth look at the way in which the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the international bankers were dealing with entire continents of non-white peoples, such as those in Africa, convinced us that there was no danger of overpopulation, despite the high birthrate figures being bandied about. We had identified that already 100 million people had been murdered by the policy of denying technological development to the Third World. Already, with the absolute decline in food production per capita in Africa, and the spread of disease, it was clear that the danger was whether the continent would survive at all.

Today that projection has been most hideously confirmed for anyone with eyes to see beyond the ridiculous statistics being put up by official agencies. Africa is not only being murdered by famine, but by the spread of AIDS to the point that millions are doomed to die. Asia, Ibero-America, and the ghettos of the so-called "advanced sector" are not far behind Africa.

Who has condemned these millions of starving men, women, and children to death? People who knew better. People who had been told by the Club of Life, by its founders

Lyndon LaRouche and Helga Zepp-LaRouche, and their collaborators for more than a decade, that their denial of technology and economic development to Third World countries would lead to mass death; people who wanted the non-white populations of the Third World to be wiped out!

Among those people are not a few United Nations bureaucrats, who joined with the bankers and official financial institutions in insisting that the problem was not lack of credit for large infrastructural development and industrialization, but "overpopulation." They not only should have known, but we can also testify that they *actually knew* what the result of their policies would be. We had told them so.

## Genocide worse than Hitler

Already, in August of 1984, a conservative estimate put together by the Club of Life demonstrated that the policies of the IMF and World Bank, along with the international depopulation lobby, had been responsible for killing in the decade since 1974 *ten times* the number of people murdered by Adolf Hitler, and that the body count was fast approaching the 600 million mark. The figure was composed of three different approximations: first, the largely underreported deaths from major famines, such as that of 1972-73; second, the higher death rate of Third World countries due to the lower standard of living; and third, the deliberate denial of life to millions more through sterilization and abortion.

We quote from the Club of Life's report on one aspect of the estimate: "Let us take a heuristic device from the U.N.'s own statistics to approximate the scale of outright murder that has occurred since 1974. Our starting point is the 'death differential,' the difference between the crude death rate in the 'Third World' nations and that in the industrialized world. If the development policy outlined at various U.N. conferences, including Bucharest, had been implemented, there should be no such differential. Yet the so-called crude death rate in sub-Saharan Africa still stands at 17.7/thousand—compared to a rate of 9.1/thousand in the industrialized world. That is a difference of more than 8 individuals per thousand—totally unnecessary, deliberate deaths.

"If this differential is multiplied by the populations of only the 24 most famine-ravaged nations of Africa, one comes

up with a most conservative figure of 11,790,000 deaths over the decade of 1974-84.

“By extending this rule of thumb to other regions of the world—including accepting some of the most unbelievable figures about crude death rates—the death toll from the combined area of Africa, South Asia, East Asia (not including China), and North Africa and the Middle East, amounts to a death differential of *nearly 72 million people over the decade!*”

In its paper on the threat of depopulation, the Club of Life concentrated on the case of Africa. At that time the major

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threat seemed to be posed by starvation, which was threatening at least 24 nations in Africa. Yet, as we pointed out, 19 of those nations were considered “targets” for reducing population growth!

Mozambique was one of the most flagrant cases. In the summer of 1984, a full 3 million of the 12 million Mozambicans—one quarter of the population—were threatened with famine. Infant mortality was at the rate of 105/1,000—more than 10 times that of the industrialized countries. In addition, disease from diarrheal infections was on the rise, largely due to the cessation of large-scale clean-up programs against mosquitoes and swamps following the banning of DDT.

Since 1984, the official designation of “famine emergency” nations has been removed from many of the African nations, since the drought ended. But, if anything, the human toll has increased. Deliberate sabotage of extermination programs against locust plagues has resulted in the destruction of a great deal of the crops required to feed the population. Increasing debt burdens have prevented countries from importing the foodstuffs which they need to provide bare subsistence. And then there is AIDS.

Official figures on AIDS cases in Africa are wildly un-

derreported, thanks to the attitude of international agencies such as the World Health Organization. In countries like Uganda and Zaire, reports have leaked out indicating that portions of the country have AIDS infection rates as high as 30-50%. In Zaire, where the President’s son died of the disease, there is a more liberal policy on reporting the holocaust, which includes a devastating rate of infection among the country’s intellectual young people.

Dr. Luc Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute provided an estimate of the overall AIDS picture on the continent at an October 1987 conference on AIDS in Africa, held in Naples, Italy. “We have to estimate that the number of infected people on that continent is between 5 and 10%,” Montagnier said. “This means there are between 30 and 60 million people infected.”

There is reason to believe that these figures are still conservative. And the truth is, that there is nothing to stop the plague of the 20th century from *depopulating* the continent.

For, just as the Club of Life asserted, the genocidal austerity imposed by the IMF and the international bankers is the primary cause of the disease’s spread. Even the World Health Organization has come around to an approximation of this view. A report recently produced by WHO and the France-Liberty Foundation has asserted that the AIDS virus “establishes itself most easily in a weakened organism—whether weakened by malnutrition or by other diseases. . . .” The report goes on to say that “even the lack of infrastructure becomes a factor in the propagation of AIDS. [In Africa] the lack of ports, or railways, or aerial transport, is compensated for by road transportation. All across Africa, notably in landlocked countries like Uganda or Rwanda, tracks and roads are among the principal vectors of the virus’s penetration.”

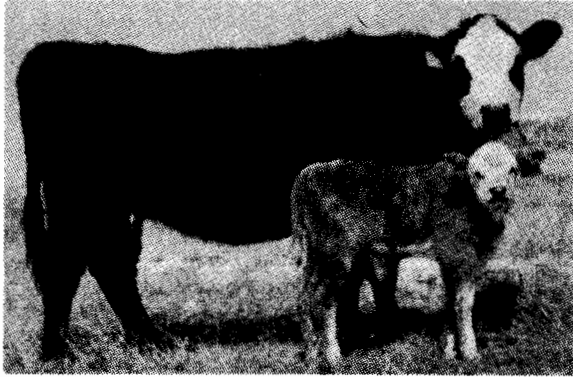
Thus, the devastation caused by the IMF’s denial of credit, and the usurious interest rates, have eliminated all potential barriers to the spread of the disease. Even the conservative French newspaper *Le Figaro*, in reporting on the WHO study, noted that the prospect is “the collapse of all black Africa . . . the collapse of the political and social structure.” And then, it notes, “the collapse of Africa can only precipitate a generalization of the catastrophe to the world.”

### **Can the horror be stopped?**

Processes such as that which is now depopulating Africa are not immediately reversible. The current debacle has been in process for at least 15 years. If even a few leading governments in the world had stepped forward to follow our advice in the early 1980s, there was hope that the debacle could be stopped. Now, tens of millions are already condemned to death, no matter what is done.

Facing that reality, however, is the first step toward fighting to save every human being who can possibly be saved. And if mankind does not find that morality, it is all of humanity that will pay the price.

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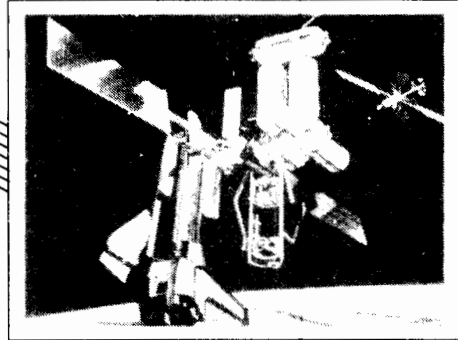
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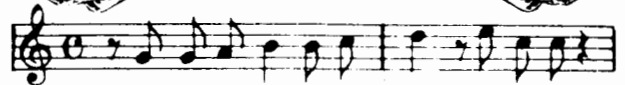
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