

'Ecological Marshall Plan' proposed to stop economic boom in Europe

by Mark Burdman

In order to suffocate the enormous potential for economic growth being opened up through the democratic revolutions in Eastern and Central Europe, the Socialist International (SI) and leading "green"-ecologist organizations are proposing what they call an "ecological Marshall Plan" for this part of Europe. The proposal has won political support from powerful interests in both the Soviet and Anglo-American establishments and from the Commission on the Environment of the European Community in Brussels.

All of these share a mood of panic that a new industrial-technological boom is about to be unleashed, driven by the powerful desire of people who have suffered under decades of communist-dictated underdevelopment, to live a decent life. These people's hatred of underdevelopment could catalyze a reaction against the post-industrial "New Age" policies that have been obsessively advocated by the liberal establishments, with Soviet backing, since the mid-1960s. As one British Fabian Society commentator recently moaned, 1989 began with Europe under the sway of "green" policies, but ended with a new continental movement in favor of economic growth.

The "eco-Marshall Plan" proposal has nothing to do with curing the acute ecological ruin that decades of communist rule have brought to East Germany, Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union, and other countries. Quite the opposite. As East Germans have seen for themselves since the Berlin Wall was opened in November 1989, the underdeveloped and looted economies of the East have vastly more pollution and environmental damage than West Germany's more developed economy. That positive culture shock has belied the greens' insane propaganda that technological progress is evil. Yet the eco-Marshall Plan lunatics are determined to impose East German conditions on the rest of Europe, and by extension on the rest of the planet, under the cover of "green" policies.

The eco-Marshall Plan agenda, *EIR* has learned, includes denial of nuclear energy to Eastern Europe, imposition of an "ecological tax" on European countries to penalize industrial production, opposition to large-scale water-management and other infrastructural projects, and related measures. Only "environmentally clean" and "appropriate" technologies are to be allowed.

Soviet support for such a program is a form of national

suicide. The infrastructural problems of the U.S.S.R. can only be solved by an economic-industrial boom in the Western-Central European heartland, along the Vienna-Paris-Berlin railroad and infrastructure axis that Lyndon LaRouche has pinpointed in his widely circulated "Railroad Triangle" project for Europe.

'Penetrate the heart of Europe'

The eco-Marshall Plan was first publicly espoused by Norway's former Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland in late 1989, soon after the opening of the Berlin Wall and the revolution in Czechoslovakia had opened up new vistas for an industrial renaissance in Europe.

Mrs. Brundtland is a key figure in the Socialist International, and was prime minister of Norway until the Norwegians had the good sense to throw her out of office in the October 1989 elections. The United Nations-mandated "Brundtland Commission" (officially, the World Commission on Environment and Development) which she heads, has become a coordinating agency for the ecologist-fascist movement internationally.

Mrs. Brundtland traveled to Moscow in mid-January of this year, on the occasion of the week-long "Global Forum on Environment and Development for Human Survival" eco-fascist extravaganza in the Soviet capital. According to a European participant at that event, she discussed the eco-Marshall Plan idea with Soviet influentials, possibly including Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov. Another Global Forum attendee, Lester Brown of the Worldwatch Institute of the United States, is a supporter of the idea.

The Soviets see the "eco-Marshall Plan" proposal as a means of reinforcing their global political deal with the Socialist International. The Milan, Italy Catholic daily *Avvenire* warned Feb. 5 that the essence of current Soviet plans is to "broaden the dialogue and the contacts with the Socialist International," in order to control Europe. Author Jakub Grygiel wrote: "The Socialist International for the U.S.S.R. is nothing but a means to penetrate the heart of Europe. Certainly a non-conventional instrument." Grygiel charged that the key to this strategy is SI President Willy Brandt, the former West German chancellor.

EIR has documented that it was Brandt's mid-October

1989 visit to Moscow that clinched a new Soviet Communist Party-SI deal. (*EIR*, Vol. 16 No. 47, "Socialist International maps out new plan to help Communist parties"). That deal is now being urgently upgraded, to contain the democratic revolutionary processes in Central and Eastern Europe.

The content of the Soviet-Socialist deal is a convergence around "ecologism." From June 20-22, 1989, the SI had held its 100th anniversary conference in Stockholm, at which ecologism, or "international environmental security" (a term coined by the Soviet Foreign Ministry) was identified as the "new mission" of the SI for the coming decade. Senior Soviet official Karen Brutents, first deputy chief of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, was in attendance.

The Lafontaine option

A crucial part of the "eco-Marshall Plan" policy, is Soviet support for the candidacy of Oskar Lafontaine, governor of the West German state of Saarland, as the Social Democratic Party (SPD) candidate for West German chancellor in the December 1989 elections. Lafontaine is a fully committed eco-fascist. He headed a task force, entitled "Progress 1990," which put ecologism at the top of the SPD's political agenda.

One of Lafontaine's mentors is Ernst-Ulrich von Weizsäcker, nephew of the current West German President and great-nephew of Ernst von Weizsäcker, who was, appropriately enough, a senior official in Hitler's Foreign Ministry during World War II. Ernst-Ulrich von Weizsäcker is the director of the Institute for European Environment Policy (IEEP) in Bonn. The IEEP is a subsidiary of the influential European Cultural Foundation in Amsterdam, which sets the trends for much of what passes as "culture" in certain European liberal circles, and which has recently been establishing close ties with the Soviet Culture Fund.

Ernst-Ulrich von Weizsäcker was together with Mrs. Brundtland at the Global Forum meeting in Moscow. According to an informed source, he feels "apprehension" about the prospect of too rapid economic growth in Central and Eastern Europe, and favors the eco-Marshall Plan proposal.

Von Weizsäcker's particular contribution to the movement seeking to suffocate an industrial renaissance in Europe, is the so-called "ecological tax," or "green tax" concept, which involves finding fiscal means to tax use of air, water, and other resources, thereby penalizing the traditional heavy-manufacturing sectors of the economy. He first proposed this in July 1987, in Hamburg, together with Volker Hauff, now the Lord Mayor of Frankfurt presiding over that city's SPD-Green party ("red-green") governing coalition.

Emma Rothschild and the British connection

Over the Feb. 3-4 weekend, Lafontaine's minister of the environment, Jo Leinen, was at Edinburgh University's Center for Human Ecology, for a special conference on the "ecological tax" concept. With them were two other Lafon-

taine advisers, both from the SPD-run state of Schleswig-Holstein: Heidi Simonis, the state's minister of finance, and Wolf von Osten, an adviser on the environment.

The Center for Human Ecology was one of the institutions which founded, and now participates in, the Varna, Bulgaria-based "Eco-Forum for Peace." Known as the "Varna Group," it has become a critical coordinating agency for the global environmentalist movement, West and East, but with the East pulling the strings. The first president of the Varna Group was Ivan Frolov, now chief editor of the Soviet Communist Party newspaper *Pravda* and one of Gorbachov's main advisers.

One of the key participants at the Feb. 3-4 Edinburgh meeting was Cambridge University's Emma Rothschild, daughter of Britain's Lord Victor Rothschild. She had been in Bonn in November 1989, in her capacity as a member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, to meet with Ernst-Ulrich von Weizsäcker, to discuss the "green tax" proposal. She sits on the advisory board of the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) which co-sponsored the Edinburgh event together with the West German social democracy's Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

Her father Lord Victor is one of the patrons of the environmentalist movement, dating at least from his being the corporate director of Royal Dutch Shell in the 1965-70. Earlier, Lord Victor was a member of the secretive Cambridge University "Apostles" gnostic cult, and an intimate of the famous Philby-Burgess-Maclean-Blunt Soviet-spy coterie. The IPPR, whose advisory board includes daughter Emma, is the modern, privately run re-creation of the British government's Cabinet Think Tank which Victor Rothschild headed in 1971-74.

No sooner had the Edinburgh University meeting ended, than the British Labour Party announced it was adopting the "green tax" policy in its economic program.

In Britain, the eco-Marshall Plan is being actively promoted by Prince Philip's World Wide Fund for Nature (formerly the World Wildlife Fund), via Prince Philip's chief adviser on ecologism, Dr. Martin Palmer of Manchester. Palmer was the conceptual architect of the 25th anniversary of the WWF in Assisi, Italy, in autumn 1986, at which a gnostic "Religion and Conservation Network" was founded. Palmer's WWF/"Network" friends are working with the European Community's Commission of the Environment in Brussels, to enlist political and religious leaders to propagate a new era of "limits to growth" propaganda in Europe.

It is, in part, through Palmer's connections into the United States, that support from Washington is being garnered for the eco-Marshall Plan abomination. Palmer is a close collaborator of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency head William Reilly, whom President Bush is seeking to elevate to cabinet-level status. Reilly, in his former capacity as head of the WWF-U.S., was the chief representative to the WWF's conference in Assisi in 1986.