

# Bush colluding with World Bank genocide?

by Kathleen Klenetsky

Is President Bush colluding with the World Bank to circumvent legal restrictions, adopted under the Reagan administration, banning U.S. financial assistance to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), one of the world's premier population control institutions and a financier of Communist China's forced-abortion program?

Sources in Washington's zero-growth lobby report that Bush has given his imprimatur to a new World Bank campaign to slash Third World population growth. The Bank's initiative was unveiled by Bank president Barber Conable in a speech to the International Planned Parenthood Federation in Ottawa, Canada last November. Conable announced that the Bank will increase spending for population-control activities, and will allocate an average of \$266 million per year over the next three years to "family planning" programs—a dramatic increase over the \$100 million per year average over the past five years. Conable said that the Bank intends to see to it that birth control is "accepted by at least half of all Third World couples by the year 2000."

According to these sources, President Bush was "very relieved and very thankful" for Conable's announcement, since it meant that the World Bank would be filling the void in population-control funding left by the Reagan administration's decision to deny funding to UNFPA as long as it supported forced abortion.

"Bush was always in the vanguard of efforts to curb population growth, at least until he started running for President," observed an official of a leading neo-malthusian group. "I don't think he's been very happy with the fact that political expediency, by which I mean his fear of a backlash from the right-to-life groups, has forced him to do things like veto the bill that would have reversed the Reagan prohibition on U.S. funds to UNFPA.

"I think it's quite possible," he continued, "that there's an understanding between Bush and Conable, and that Conable decided to up the World Bank budget on population programs to compensate for the loss of direct U.S. funds."

This report is credible because Bush, despite his alleged conversion to the anti-abortion side during his 1980 presidential bid, was a leading advocate for the neo-malthusian lobby and functioned as one of its chief spokesmen during his stint in the U.S. Congress during the late 1960s. Conable and Bush are also close personal and political allies; they served together on the Trilateral Commission, and in 1980, Conable acted

as national finance chairman of Bush's presidential campaign.

## Conable the barbarian

In his address to the IPPF, Conable made it clear that his top priority is to reduce the number of human beings in the Third World. "We must come firmly to grips with the population issue," he exhorted his audience. Acknowledging that the malthusian claim that agricultural production can never keep pace with population growth, has been discredited, Conable came up with a new justification—ecology—for the Bank's genocidal rampage. "My sense of urgency," he said, "derives from concern about the serious strains that more billions of people will impose on the Earth's environment."

Since taking over the Bank's presidency, Conable has placed a major emphasis on environmental issues, and has introduced stringent environmental requirements on all project funding. This means that any large-scale, high-tech infrastructure project (nuclear power plants, large dams, and so forth) that would allow for an increase in economic activity and the production of goods necessary to support a growing population, has been blacklisted.

Bush's alleged collusion with Conable also puts him squarely behind the P.R.C.'s hideous methods of population reduction, including the practice of coercive abortions.

These practices are still going on—and the Bush team knows it. During the congressional debate last year over whether to lift the restrictions on U.S. contributions to UNFPA, Sen. Gordon J.

administration has found compelling evidence that the population program of the P.R.C. is still pervaded by coercion and has refused to fund it." Although China has reportedly made "exceptions" in policy to allow a second child for couples whose first was a girl, third children are strictly banned. According to Humphrey, Central Committee Directive #7 of 1983—of "mandatory IUD insertion after one child, mandatory sterilization after two, and mandatory abortion of any child conceived outside the quota system"—continues in force.

Humphrey also read eyewitness testimony cited by international human rights activist Dr. Blake Kerr, on the activities of the P.R.C.'s "mobile teams" of population control agents in annexed Tibet since 1982. Buddhist monks reported that one team set up a tent in Amdo and forced all pregnant woman in the village to have abortions, followed by sterilization. "Women nine months pregnant had their babies taken out." Every woman of childbearing age was sterilized. "We saw the growing pile of fetuses build up outside the tent, which smelled horrible. Since 1987 there has been a tremendous increase in the number and frequency of the teams that move from town to town."

Nevertheless, Conable announced on Feb. 26 that, with the explicit support of the Bush administration, the World Bank had approved a \$40 million loan to China, the first of seven put on hold after the Tiananmen Square massacre.