

Dateline Montreal by Gilles Gervais

Mulroney and Bush fail acid test

With a new U.S.-Canada acid rain treaty signed, Mulroney is fully ready to get on with the new world order.

On March 13, George Bush made a stopover in Ottawa before flying to Martinique and Bermuda where, in a vacation-like atmosphere, he would be instructing his senior coalition partners in the Gulf slaughter, French President François Mitterrand and U.K. Prime Minister John Major, on the next phase in the conduct of the new world order.

Bush's Ottawa visit was kept short because Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney is said to be familiar with U.S. expectations regarding Canada's role as the favored junior partner in the Anglo-American-dominated new world order. The purported reason for the visit, the signing of a bilateral accord on acid rain, which President Bush called a "historic moment," settled what had been the big bone of contention with the U.S., and now the Canadian government is ready to get on with the new world order.

But it is Mulroney's very acquiescence to all of Bush's demands, especially during the Gulf crisis, which has been the more recent source of the prime minister's domestic problems; what has bruised Mulroney's ego the most were repeated accusations from the parliamentary opposition that Mulroney is unable to utter any statement or launch any policy without prior White House approval.

Mulroney expects Bush's effusive praise for him and for Canada's "supportive" role in the Gulf to be the quick boost to his popularity rating which, before the bombing of Iraq, was at an all-time low for a Canadian prime minister. Commenting on his guest's alleged 90% popularity rating in the United

States, Mulroney quipped, "We could put both of our ratings together, divide by two and both of us would still come out winners." Later, when a telephone rang in the room where the ceremony in honor of the U.S. President was being held, Mulroney crowed, "It's Gallup, I knew it would go up, but not this fast."

The U.S.-Canada treaty itself recognizes insane environmental actions taken in both nations to control acid rain based on the unscientific approach of decreasing industrial emissions by shutting down industry—part of Bush's new world order. The U.S. Congress passed the Clean Air Act, which Lyndon LaRouche, a political prisoner running for U.S. President in 1992, denounced as the "Gorbachov Clean Air Act."

In Canada, similar policy passed in 1985, when the federal government signed agreements with seven provinces creating the Canadian Acid Rain Control Program. Measures have since been implemented to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions by 1994 to levels 50% of 1980. The Canadian Environmental Protection Act became law on June 30, 1988 and consolidated all existing laws so as to promote the concept of "sustainable" development throughout the federal government policymaking apparatus.

Scientific advice has been ignored. On Jan. 9, 1986, American special envoy Drew Lewis and his Canadian counterpart William Davis submitted their report on acid rain. Their main recommendation was to spend \$5 billion over five years to develop more efficient ways to burn coal. Environmentalists argued that adequate coal-burning technologies

existed and that the money should be spent on controlling emissions.

Similarly, the provisional report of the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program (NAPAP), submitted on Sept. 17, 1987, argued that it was unnecessary to intensify measures against acid rain in the U.S. The final report was disregarded even though the 10-year, \$600 million study had employed 3,000 of the top scientists in the United States.

From lake sediments, the NAPAP found that the so-called acid lakes simply were returning to their natural state after two centuries of de-acidification caused by man. In the course of intensive logging and farming in the last century, the ground cover changed from forests, to farmlands and tree stands that were regularly burned, making the topsoil and the lakes more alkaline, enabling fish to thrive where they formerly had not. As farmers went out of business and forests grew back in the 1930s and '40s, the topsoil returned to its previous acidic levels.

The NAPAP study concluded that dumping crushed limestone in the lakes at a cost of \$500,000 per year would be far more effective than spending \$8 billion a year to reduce emissions. The Clean Air Act will, in effect, shut down hundreds of factories and power plants without any net benefit to the environment.

But of course the Gorbachov Clean Air Act, the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, and the upcoming "Green Plan" of Canada were never meant to be confused with "recovery bills." They were rather meant to give legal credence to the radical ideology of the anti-science ecology mob. Throughout history, such mobs have been used as battering rams to destroy civilization, and are then usually disposed of by the tyrannical rulers of a new world order.