

New Age kook Maurice Strong in charge of Earth Summit

by Kathleen Klenetsky

The individual charged with running the U.N.-sponsored Earth Summit scheduled to take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil next June, is a New Age lunatic who fantasizes about pulling the plug on the world financial system in order to force the countries of the world to subordinate themselves to an environmentalist dictatorship predicated on the pagan cult of Mother Earth.

The upcoming conference could not have a more appropriate person at its helm than Maurice Strong. A Canadian who amassed a fortune in the oil business, Strong has compiled a record over the last 25 years as one of the most virulent exponents of the big lie that mankind is a cancer upon nature and that the development of the human species must be severely curbed to preserve the environment. This lie serves as the foundation of the Earth Summit, or Eco-92, as it's otherwise known.

Strongly genocidal

Strong has pulled the strings of nearly every significant neo-malthusian initiative of the last three decades. A key member of the Club of Rome, the international clique of genocidalists set up in 1968, Strong has been instrumental in bringing the group's infamous "limits to growth" mentality to a world-spanning range of activities, many tied to the United Nations.

In addition to his longstanding association with the Club of Rome, Strong has been active in other hard-core neo-malthusian organizations, ranging from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the World Federation of United Nations Associations, to the Aspen Institute, which, among other dubious achievements, engineered the anti-nuclear hysteria which has shut down much of the U.S. domestic nuclear energy industry since the 1970s. In 1989, just as preparations for Eco-92 were getting off the ground, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney named Strong to head Canada's Center for Sustainable Development.

Strong first emerged as a major player in the international zero growth movement in 1972, when he served as secretary general of the U.N. Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm.

This was a watershed event: It put the U.N.'s official

imprimatur to the neo-malthusian campaign to use environmentalism as a weapon against economic progress and population growth, especially in the Third World, and as a cover for colonial-style resource grabs, such as is now being mounted against Brazil under the guise of protecting the Amazon River basin. The Eco-92 conference is the official 20th anniversary of the Stockholm event.

"I think we at Stockholm began to address ourselves [to] some of the very, very deep and important long-range questions that studies like [the Club of Rome's] *Limits to Growth* point out," Strong said in an interview not long after the U.N. conference.

Strong was well positioned to foist this genocidal garbage onto the Third World by virtue of his work with Canada's governmental foreign aid program. In the mid-1960s, Strong headed Canada's External Aid Office; he then went on to found CIDA, the government's international development agency—which many considered a front for Canadian intelligence operations in the Third World.

Through these two agencies, Strong was able to pawn himself off as a trustworthy friend of the developing countries, someone who would advise them to adopt population control measures and accept environmentalism out of the goodness of his heart. That cynical cover has enabled Strong to sell the worst forms of genocide—packaged as "sustainable development" or other polite-sounding euphemisms for zero-growth—to the Third World, and is the reason why he was designated to head the 1992 Earth Summit.

Immediately after Stockholm, Strong was given a mandate to set up the U.N. Environmental Program, which has played a pivotal role in promoting the whole panoply of "green fascist" programs. One of UNEP's most important offshoots was the World Commission for Environment and Development. Established by the U.N. in 1983, and known as the "Brundtland Commission" after its chair, Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, the panel published a report called *Our Common Future*, which laid out a scenario for "sustainable development" that would ensure that the Third World remained in a state of progressive backwardness forever. Strong was one of a handful of select individuals chosen to serve on the commission.

Strongly weird

But this doesn't tell the half of Strong's story. This seemingly successful entrepreneur and government official—among his many posts, he was named CEO of PetroCanada in 1976 by his good friend and then-Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau—is a certifiable kook, a New Age extremist who keeps earthworms in his kitchen to process wastes into compost.

According to a profile published in the May 1990 issue of *West* magazine, Strong and his “mystical . . . Danish-born wife, Hanne,” run a New Age religious retreat in southern Colorado, known as Baca Grande, on a huge tract of land which they purchased in 1978. Entitled “The Wizard of Baca Grande,” and written by Daniel Wood, the article reports that Strong hopes that Baca Grande “can serve as a seed” for a “worldwide spiritual awakening,” which is the “one factor that may spare humanity from its environmental folly.”

Hanne Strong refers to the retreat as “The Valley of the Refuge of World Truth,” the article says, adding that it has been “nourished by the Strong's’ friends, such people as Rockefeller, [Pierre] Trudeau, the Dalai Lama and Shirley MacLaine.” Hanne was inspired to create the valley by a stranger who told her he had a vision of a religious retreat in the mountains. That was not her first vision, for Hanne claims that she knew “from childhood that . . . she had mystical abilities. She saw angels. She could recall past lives.”

The first to respond to her invitation to set up shop in the valley were the Aspen Institute (Maurice Strong is a long-time board member) and the Lindisfarne Association. The locals apparently began to suspect something was amiss when Henry Kissinger and Robert McNamara began to show up.

By the time the *West* article was written, the Strong's’ retreat had grown to the point where it was home to a Carmelite monastery, a ziggurat financed by Najeeb Halaby (father-in-law of Jordan's King Hussein), a solar-powered Hindu temple, an Indian hogan, a subterranean Zen Buddhist center, a house full of a thousand crystals with mystical properties, and another occupied an 85-year-old shaman. Hollywood actress (and “channeller”) Shirley MacLaine also has a place at the retreat.

While Strong told *West* that he leaves belief in things like crystals and omens to Hanne and her occult faith, he described his own New Age belief that “the great frontier of the future is the frontier between the individual spirit and the Spirit, the cosmos. At our highest moments,” he said, “we feel a sense of unity with the cosmos. A lot of us have static, though. Our society runs on people feeling unfulfilled, unconnected. The process of *atunement* is the trick. It takes practice.”

He also related to author Wood that he was considering writing a novel about a conspiracy to bring down the international economy to force acceptance of a global environmental regime. According to Wood, Strong's’ plot goes like this: A small group of people within the elite World Economic Forum, which meets in Davos each year, form a conspiracy to

get the rich countries of the world to sign an environmental agreement. The rich countries refuse, and the conspirators decide that the only way they can achieve their objective is to “bring about an economic collapse.” Wood recounts Strong's’ version of what happens next: “It's February. They're all at Davos. These aren't terrorists. They're world leaders. They have positioned themselves in the world's commodity and stock markets. They've engineered . . . a panic. Then, they prevent the world's stock markets from closing. They jam the gears. They hire mercenaries who hold the rest of the world leaders at Davos as hostages. The markets *can't close*. The rich countries . . .’ And Strong makes a slight motion with his fingers as if he were flicking a cigarette butt out the window.”

As Wood points out, Strong “is, in fact, co-chairman of the Council of the World Economic Forum. He sits at the fulcrum of power. He is in a position to *do it*” (emphasis in original).

Strong's resource grab

The saga of Baca Grande doesn't end there. It turns out that the Strong's’ 155,000 acre tract sits atop one of the largest underground aquifers in the world. Maurice Strong has repeatedly insisted that he and his wife knew nothing about the aquifer when they purchased the land in the late 1970s.

But only a few years later, U.S. government drilling teams officially discovered the aquifer, and immediately thereafter, Strong set up a company called American Water Development to exploit the find. Strong's’ main partner in the enterprise was Samuel Belzberg, a Vancouver financier who has been a long-time business associate of the Bronfmans, one of Canada's premier organized crime families. His other key partners included William D. Ruckelshaus, former head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Robert B. Anderson, son of Robert O. Anderson, former chairman of Atlantic Richfield oil company, and a leading figure at the environmentalist Aspen Institute. Former Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm, who insists that “the elderly have the duty to die and get out of the way,” joined the board in 1989.

Ironically, this group of grandstanding environmentalists—purveyors of the line that everyone must consume less and suffer more to protect nature—found themselves doing pitched battle with local residents and some leading environmental groups, when they announced plans to pump as much as 6.5 billion gallons a year from the aquifer and sell it to Denver and other places. Area farmers and residents feared that if the aquifer were exploited irresponsibly, it would lower the water table below many existing wells, in an area in which water is scarcer than gold.

The story of American Water Development exposes what lies behind the “save the earth” nonsense from Strong and his ilk: a conspiracy to obtain top-down control over the world's raw materials, and, thus, over every country's economy, under the guise of defending the environment.