

Pope urges Clinton to defend life, family, sovereignty

by Nora Hamerman

When the President of the United States, William Clinton, criticized the notion of a United Nations-led "utopian world government" during the 50th anniversary celebrations of D-Day in Europe on June 4, he could have been reflecting on his meeting with the pope at the Vatican. During the 40-minute private meeting on June 2, John Paul II urged the United States to defend human life and promote the values of the family. Vatican spokesman Joaquín Navarro said that "the pope made an appeal to the responsibilities of a great nation such as America, whose origin and historical development have always promoted ethical values that are basic to every culture."

While they touched on many international issues, Navarro said, the most important part of the talks centered on the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo '94) upcoming in Cairo, Egypt in September.

The pontiff's plea to Clinton, during the frank meeting where they disagreed on birth control programs and abortion, was aimed at combatting the far-advanced plans of the British oligarchy to use the military and financial coercive power of the United Nations to enforce the most brutal tyranny yet known to man, under the pretext of protecting the earth from "overpopulation."

The meeting came in the context of mounting resistance against Cairo rallied by the pope. According to the June 7 Italian daily *La Repubblica*, Argentina's "President Menem has sent a letter to all heads of state in Latin America to create a common front, inspired by the Holy See position: practically, to eliminate from the final document of the U.N. conference any mentioning of 'safe and legal abortion.' "

"The Argentinian letter attacks frontally the thesis of the

U.N. experts, according to which the globe is going towards a demographic catastrophe. 'The fertility rates of our countries,' Menem writes to his Latin American colleagues, 'are declining almost everywhere and, taking into account infant mortality and life expectancies starting from the first year of life, peoples of our continent tend to become old.' "

La Repubblica comments: "Menem's letter is the first important diplomatic step to overturn the approach of the preparatory document for the Cairo conference, and it's no wonder that the pope's spokesman, Joaquín Navarro, has communicated the Holy See's appreciation. The Argentinian intervention, in fact, aims at coagulating an alternative majority to rewrite the U.N. theses. . . . Following the Vatican diplomatic work, more pawns are being moved on the international scene. Kohl's Germany is very close to [Pope] Wojtyla's positions. In Asia, the Philippines are pro-pope. In Africa, a group of pro-Wojtyla countries is being formed. Meanwhile, the church hierarchies are carrying out a campaign to persuade Islamic authorities, invoking the defense of the Third World from the 'hegemony of the West and of its pharmaceutical multinationals.' Last, in the United States, the Bishops Conference asked Clinton to change his line. But to increase the pressure, the six American cardinals wrote separately to him."

U.S. political-economist Lyndon LaRouche said on June 8 that if the portions of the draft document for Cairo which the Vatican and its allies have bracketed are killed, this will torpedo Cairo '94 and put a stop to "that attempt for the world government freaks to set up that kind of global dictatorship."

Mr. Clinton and John Paul II also discussed the need to protect religious freedom in Asia, the U.S. dispute with North Korea, as well as the situation in Bosnia and events in

Poland and Russia. The role of Islamic states in the future of the world was also a topic which clearly made an impression on Clinton.

Focus on Cairo '94

What is planned for Cairo is the latest in a series of Nazi population conferences which began in 1935 when Hitler's National Socialist government held the first World Population Conference in Berlin to plan the extermination of eastern Europeans. LaRouche, who is mobilizing the political movement he leads to stop the conference, put it bluntly: "Going to the Cairo conference in order to argue for a better policy is like joining Hitler's SS to try to work 'from the inside' for better conditions for the inmates at Auschwitz."

The pontiff, despite his recent month in the hospital for surgery for a broken leg, has been extremely vigorous in denouncing the planning documents for the Cairo conference, which encourage abortion, contraception, and sterilization in Third World countries. Clinton, answering questions by reporters in Rome, justified his administration's support for legalized abortion throughout the world as called for in the draft Cairo document, because he said that tens of millions of abortions are occurring in unsafe ways that put women at risk.

Clinton said, "We talked about the upcoming conference in Cairo on world population, about where we agreed and where we didn't, how we could come together on a policy that would promote responsible growth for the world's population and still reaffirm our common commitment to the central role of the family in every society." Italian radio reported that Clinton promised that he would do his best to improve the Cairo final document. He also stressed that his administration does not support abortion as a means of birth control. According to the account in France's *Le Figaro*, Clinton also distinguished his policy approach from the forced population-control policy of China.

Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano, who met with his U.S. colleague Warren Christopher while the pope and President were talking, was asked if a reconciliation was in sight. "At least we're talking," he told reporters. "Now we'll see the results."

In a statement issued the same day, John Paul II appealed to the "Jewish electorate in the U.S.," *Le Figaro* reported, by pointing to the conclusions just reached at a meeting of Jews and Roman Catholics held in Jerusalem May 23-26. At that meeting, the pope said, the two religions had affirmed the sacred value of marriage, and had insisted that "to share in life the same values" is a means of acknowledging that "the rights and the duties of the family do not flow from the state," but *precede* the obligations of the state.

An in-depth critique

The point, that "women's reproductive health" issues are being used to impose the oligarchy's global fascist agenda, is proven in the Pontifical Council on the Family's lengthy

critique of the Cairo conference, released just before the meeting between President and pope. Titled *Instrumentum Laboris* or "Ethical and Pastoral Dimensions of Population Trends," the three-part, 64-page booklet stresses that we need to produce more food with new technologies and to discover new resources, rather than pushing birth control as an alleged solution to economic-social problems.

"History has shown," the new document states, "that resources have never become less, but rather become more and more, and that the planet Earth often possesses hidden resources." The dramatic drop in birth rates in the industrialized nations, the papal document warns, will create grave imbalances in the societal order, aggravate the lack of social solidarity among the generations, and even "introduce the discussion about euthanasia." Other highlights (all emphasis is original) include:

- It notes that at the 1984 Mexico City Population Conference, all participating governments signed Recommendation 18, which stated: "All efforts should be made to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality. . . . Governments are urged . . . to take appropriate steps to help women avoid abortion, which in no case should be promoted as a method of family planning, and whenever possible, provide for the humane treatment and counseling of women who have had recourse to abortion." It notes that many governments "in practice do not apply Recommendation 18."

- It repeatedly calls attention to the *decline in fertility* in the advanced sector countries, and rightly argues that this dangerous population trend is always ignored, unlike so-called overpopulation, the truth of which the document questions. "[A] greater number of aged persons will find themselves depending upon pensions which could only be assured by the work of an active population, which is certainly decreasing according to demographic projections. In various advanced countries there is a 'demographic winter' which is becoming more and more severe."

- The apparent financial benefit from fewer children is only that: apparent. "[T]he fall in the birth rate releases financial means in the short term. These are seen as advantageous but they benefit present generations *to the detriment of the future.*"

- Africa is "underpopulated, with weak population densities in the greater part of its territory."

- "To justify 'population control,' they have talked about a 'population bomb,' a 'population explosion,' and 'overpopulated world' with irremediably limited resources. They say that there is a 'world consensus' about the urgency of the situation. However, the slogans spread about these matters cannot stand up to analysis because the history of human development shows that it is simplistic to affirm that controlling population growth is necessary to achieve or maintain a certain level of prosperity."

- "The developed countries define for other countries what must be, from their point of view, 'sustainable develop-

ment.' This explains why certain rich countries and major international organizations are willing to help these countries, but on one condition—that they accept programs for the systematic control of their births.”

● “It would be difficult to find an example in history of a country which underwent a prolonged trend (more than 25 years) of falling population and enjoyed substantial economic development at the same time. . . . [T]he church cannot accept that the poorest populations be treated as ‘scapegoats’ for underdevelopment.”

No coercion!

In Part III, “The Ethical and Pastoral Position of the Catholic Church,” the document puts forward a series of constitutional principles, which have universal bearing on the fight against the “new world order”:

“The positive experiences acquired from past generations risk being compromised, if not partly lost, because of a lack of persons capable of passing them on. *The transmission of the common patrimony of humanity is in peril.* This patrimony is made up of moral and religious values, cultural assets, the arts, sciences, and skills. It can only be transmitted and enriched with the cooperation of new generations. Because the rich but aging societies risk sinking into extreme selfishness, the first to suffer from this impoverishment and decline will be precisely the most defenseless people.” (¶ 64)

“The church is aware of the reality of population changes in developing nations. She affirms the vocation of *every person and nation to development.*” (¶ 65)

“As recent popes have indicated, the church recognizes a right of public authorities, within the limit of their competence, to intervene regarding population matters, but she affirms that in this area the state is not to arrogate to itself the responsibilities of which couples ought not to be deprived. . . . Whether it is concealed or obvious, any type of authoritarian demographic policy is unacceptable. On the contrary, the duty of the state is to protect the family and the freedom of couples, to guarantee the life of the innocent, and to see that the woman is respected, especially in her dignity as a mother.” (¶ 69)

“The same principle of subsidiarity applies equally to *public international institutions* [the United Nations and related structures]. Nothing can justify their pressuring states or national communities to impose policies incompatible with respect for persons, families or national independence. These institutions . . . must respect the legitimate sovereignty of nations as well as the just autonomy of couples.” (¶ 70)

“Care must also be taken lest these institutions serve powerful nations . . . aid for the world’s poor is an obligation of justice for the rich . . . it would be scandalous to link the granting of this aid with immoral conditions involving the control of human life.” (¶ 71)

Under “Guidelines for Action,” the papal document un-masks the hypocrisy of the Cairo planners’ concern for “safe

motherhood”: “Women are the first to suffer psychologically and physically from campaigns inspired by the ideology of population fear. In these campaigns a false concept of the woman’s ‘reproductive health’ is used to promote different methods of contraception and abortion. . . . This ideology of population fear puts the blame on the woman for being a mother, concealing the fact that *through this maternal dimension she makes her essential and irreplaceable contribution to society.* The quality of a society is expressed in the respect it shows with regard to the woman. A society which shows contempt for welcoming the child and human life, holds the woman in contempt. For this reason everything must be done to help women fulfill their responsibilities and reconcile their family, professional, associative and social duties as they see fit. This is possible only if in practice the equal dignity of man and woman is recognized.” (¶ 84)

Institutional roadblocks

The importance of a personal encounter between Clinton and John Paul II reflects institutional problems which both have in the United States. Figures from the U.S. State Department, such as Undersecretary of State for Global Population Affairs Timothy Wirth, have played a leading role in drafting the “plan of action” for Cairo. This draft seeks to impose even more tyrannous forms of the State Department policies in effect at least since Henry Kissinger’s infamous 1974 “National Security Study Memorandum 200,” which called Third World population growth the biggest U.S. security threat. As *EIR* documented in a 1992 Special Report, “The Genocidal Roots of George Bush’s New World Order,” imposing sterilization and abortion abroad as the precondition for financial aid, while strangling the economic development of backward countries, were the mainstays of U.S. foreign policy under Bush. If Clinton wants to save his presidency and the nation, he will have to sweep globaloney lunatics like Wirth out of the State Department.

The pope would also have reason to not rely exclusively on U.S. Catholic Church channels into the White House. The neo-conservative brand of U.S. Catholic liberals, which worships British “free trade,” bitterly opposes the church’s emphasis on the “vocation of every person and nation to development,” while the New Agers have gone to war against the pope’s teachings on sexual morality. One group, Catholic Organizations for Renewal (COR), plans an Open Letter to John Paul II to appear as an advertisement in the *New York Times* this summer, saying that Vatican opposition to contraception “fosters unwanted pregnancies, increases the number of abortions, deepens the misery of women and children worldwide, and deters responsible action to prevent the spread of AIDS.” COR is chaired by Ruth Fitzpatrick, national coordinator of the radical-feminist Women’s Ordination Conference, which stepped up its hate campaign against the pope after the May 30 apostolic letter which emphatically reiterated the church’s ban on women priests.