

# 'Sustainable development': a weapon against nation-states

by Carl Osgood

The latest weapon against nation-states in the arsenal of Prince Philip's Club of the Isles, is the policy of "environmentally sustainable development," wielded especially against, but not limited to, developing countries in Africa, Asia, and Ibero-America. Nowhere was this more in evidence and more explicit than at the World Bank's Third Annual Conference on Environmentally Sustainable Development held at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 4-6.

The list of participants reads like a *Who's Who* of the Club of the Isles. The opening session was addressed by U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Gali; Maurice Strong, president of the Earth Council; and Ismail Serageldin, World Bank vice president for environmentally sustainable development. The moderator of the opening session was National Academy of Sciences President Bruce Alberts, who boasted of the collaboration on sustainable development between the National Academy of Sciences and the World Bank.

Strong is best known in these circles as the secretary general of the U.N. Conference on the Environment, the so-called "Earth Summit" or "Rio-92," held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992.<sup>1</sup> However, he is also busily promoting the reorganization of the government in his native Canada, in order for it to become an enforcement arm of the U.N.'s green agenda. Strong spoke of the requirement for new part-

nerships to implement the sustainable development agenda, and demanded that sustainable development be given the same priority that security issues received in the past.

## Warnings of 'apocalypse to come'

The remainder of the agenda of the Washington conference and its participants show significant overlap with the membership and institutions of the Club of the Isles, the British monarchy-led oligarchical elite. One panel, entitled "The Potential Cost of Inaction," was moderated by Kathryn Fuller, the president of The World Wildlife Fund-USA, and included as a speaker Robert T. Watson, the chief author of the scientific fraud that the ozone hole is caused by man-made chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). Fuller spoke of an "apocalypse to come" if sustainable development policies are not implemented.

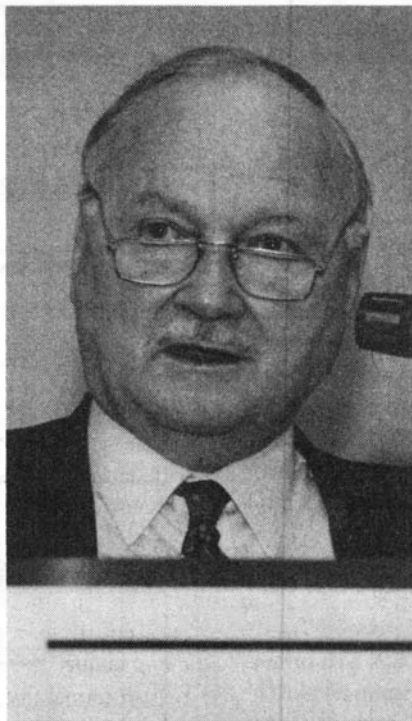
Other organizations and agencies represented included the Worldwatch Institute, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, various government finance ministers, as well as the major U.N. operating agencies and agencies of the U.S. government. The World Resources Institute, the main think-tank for U.S. environmental groups, was not officially part of the conference agenda, but its presence was felt through two of its former top officials: James Gustave Speth, founding president of WRI and now administrator of the U.N. Development Program, and Mohamed El-Ashry, chairman of the Global Environment Facility and previously a senior vice president of WRI. Both spoke on the panel on effective financing of sustainable development. Vice President Al Gore delivered the keynote address on Oct. 4.

In his speech, Gore described environmental problems, such as climate changes, water pollution, and declining stocks of important food species, as all "manifestations of a deeper underlying collision between modern industrial civilization, as it is currently constituted, and the ecological system of the Earth."

Gore said that the relationship between civilization and the ecology has been "radically transformed" by the confluence of three factors, the first of which is the "population explosion." He complained that the growth of the world pop-

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1. What is wrong with "environmentally sustainable development"? *EIR's* Mark Burdman analyzed the concept in our issue of Feb. 28, 1992, during the period of preparations for the U.N.'s Earth Summit. In an article titled " 'Sustainable Development' Without Scientific Progress? What a Hoax!" Burdman wrote that under the flag of "sustainability," the Green establishment wants policy to be made on the basis of two lunatic assertions: "first, that human agro-industrial activity, and concomitant demographic growth, are about to destroy the biosphere or ecosphere, through ozone depletion, greenhouse effect, global warming, acid rain, rain forest destruction, etc. (or, 'Man is trashing the planet'); second, that all considerations of economic policy must henceforth be subordinated to 'ecological' considerations (or, 'You must kill your family and betray your nation for Mother Earth')." In fact, as Burdman showed, the threatened "unsustainability" is a direct consequence of leading institutions' and governments' enforcement of the environmentalist beliefs about to be enshrined in Rio as the Earth Charter. The only way out of "unsustainable" activity, is to achieve creative breakthroughs to high orders of scientific and technological development.



*Speakers at the World Bank's conference on Environmentally Sustainable Development included, left to right: James Gustave Speth, the founding president of the World Resources Institute, now the administrator of the U.N. Development Program; Canada's Maurice Strong, president of the Earth Council and former secretary general of the U.N. Conference on the Environment; U.S. Vice President Albert Gore.*

ulation from 2 billion to 5 billion people in his lifetime is just too much. The second factor, he said, is science and technological progress, "which has magnified the effect the ordinary person can have on the environment." The third factor, Gore called a "philosophical shift." "For too long," he said, "too many of us have been convinced that we don't have to take into account the consequences for future generations of our actions on the environment."

Gore's philosophy is a restatement of the "people pollute" propaganda of the Nixon White House. Gore's pessimistic hypothesis brings him, and his movement, into confrontation with individuals and nations who insist on the right to "consume the fruits of science and technology."

### **The strategy for genocide**

This drive to destroy nation-states consists of a number of elements, one of which is recruitment of the private capital markets into supporting and investing in "environmentally sustainable" projects, or, as Serageldin put it, "to reshape the calculus facing private investors."

This process is already occurring, said Elizabeth Dowdeswell, the executive director of the U.N. Environment Program. In her remarks on Oct. 6, she reported, "We are very encouraged by our discussions with the financial services sector not only as to how they are greening their own operations, but also their concern about the wisdom of their invest-

ment portfolios."

Various kinds of green taxes, such as on oil consumption and air travel, as well as the use of debt-for-nature swaps, were also discussed. Speth spoke of what he called "creative uses of debt reduction" aimed at "committing countries to sustainable development," and he praised the World Bank for pursuing debt relief for countries "committed to appropriate change."

Another part of the strategy is to eliminate water, energy, and agricultural subsidies. The idea is that the so-called "free market" would force people to pay much higher prices to use these resources. Serageldin called this "efficient management of resources." He attacked government subsidies of energy in the developing world as "environmentally unsound, economically unsound, and wasteful of resources that could be going toward other uses." Dowdeswell referred to such subsidies as "perverse."

In other words, the notion of the right to cheap access to certain resources, such as water and energy, would be denied. In many countries, getting access to water and energy supplies has never been easy, but under the sustainable development policy, these nations will never have these rights.

A third part of the World Bank strategy is to promote decentralization, in which power is devolved away from national governments in two directions. One direction is

upward, to the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and the United Nations and its various operating agencies. The other direction is downward, to local governments, communities, and regions. Because this is the operating level of most non-governmental organizations (NGOs), power is really going to the NGOs, not to the lower levels of governments. The prime minister of Mali, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, himself an NGO leader prior to becoming prime minister in 1992, spoke glowingly of decentralization.

Behavior modification is another part of the sustainable development strategy. This amounts to brainwashing people and governments to oppose the kinds of physical economic development policies that result in the increase of the physical wealth of an economy. David McDowell, the director general of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, referred to this as "changing the mind-sets in central governments and international institutions."

### The World Bank turns green

The World Bank also bragged about the "greening" of its portfolio. Serageldin reported that the bank has \$10 billion worth of environmental projects in 62 countries in its portfolio, and is reviewing all non-environmental projects that it invests in "to ensure that the environmental dimensions will be properly addressed." He added that the bank "is working toward 'greening' the entire portfolio; we are moving toward changes that will make our \$20 billion per year in new lending become supportive of environmentally sustainable development."

While lip service is repeatedly paid to the problems of poverty in large parts of the world, the World Bank and its partners in sustainable development are working hard to disabuse developing nations of the idea that the solution to their problems lies along the path of traditional industrial development.

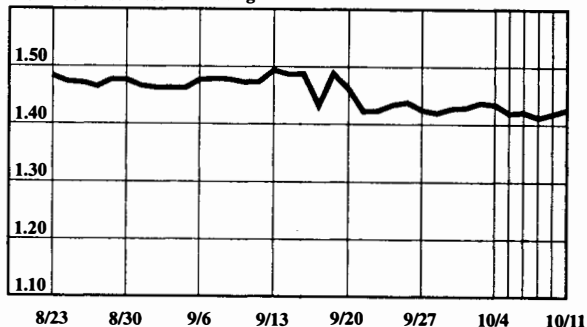
McDowell made the undesirability of nation-states a central theme of his speech to the conference. He told the assembled that "the anachronistic notion that nation-states are the only legitimate clients and implementing agencies" for development policies "must die." He claimed that "in many parts of the world, governments themselves have come to recognize their inability to foster sustainable development at the grass roots, so they are decentralizing their activities." In spite of this recognition, however, he complained that the World Bank can still only deal with central governments. "That is a legacy and a liability from our past that must be changed," he said.

*EIR* exposed the philosophy behind the policies of the sustainable development crowd in its Oct. 28, 1994 *Special Report*, "The Coming Fall of the House of Windsor." The goal is to reduce the world's human population to what the Club of the Isles might consider "manageable" levels. If they are able to implement these policies, the result will be levels of chaos and genocide never before seen in human history.

## Currency Rates

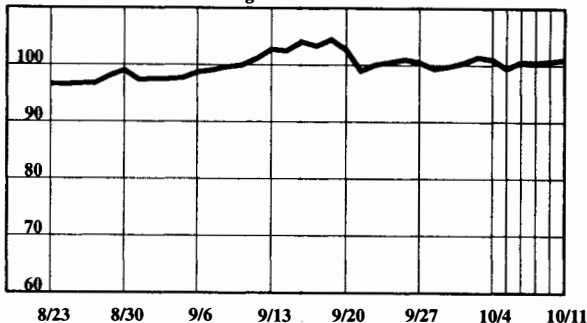
### The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



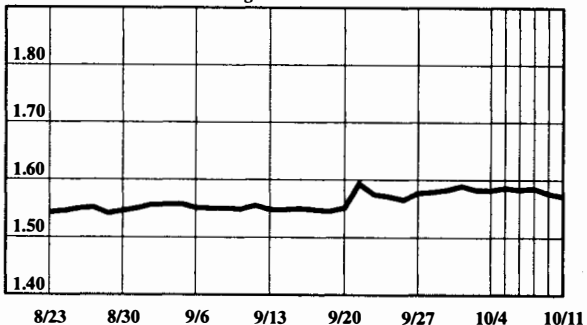
### The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



### The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



### The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing

