

agriculture, mandated by the eight-year Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, became the topic for an open split between the United States and ministers from France and the rest of continental Europe, who refused to give away any concession on their national right to support their farm sectors.

The most conspicuous “has-beens” at the conference included the chairmen of many of the famous name global companies, such as Cargill, Enron, Chubb, and New York Life International, who were on hand at events alongside the WTO ministerial meetings to promote free trade. With them were their hangers-on crowd of Republicans and “New Democrats” in Congress, plus the Democratic Leadership Council, who also backed “Third Way” free trade.

Reactions to reality in Seattle

The official mood in Seattle was one of determination to ignore reality. Typical was one among 2,500-person press corps, a transatlantic senior correspondent, who told *EIR*, “Darling, unless Schröder resigns or dies, it’s not relevant for this conference.” But the worries in London were mirrored on the eve of the WTO summit in the Nov. 29 *Washington Post* headline: “Germany Resists the New Economy; Globalization Imperils Traditions.” On that day, *EIR* raised the issue of the German anti-free-market actions at a briefing by U.K. Trade and Industry Minister Stephen Byers, head of the WTO British delegation. “I don’t want to hear about Vodafone and Mannesmann,” Byers said. He characterized German help for Holzmann workers as a mere “domestic” action, and stressed that Britain sees itself as the “bridge” between opposing interests everywhere. Britain will act especially on behalf of the poor, he said, to bring down all barriers to trade.

But the next day, after the conference opened, European Commission chief negotiator Pascal Lamy made diplomatic acknowledgment of the moves toward nation-state interest. When Harley Schlanger asked about certain recent pro-national interest statements by French Prime Minister Jospin, Bank of Italy head Antonio Fazio, and Schröder’s jobs-saving moves, and about the risks from a gigantic “correction” in the inflated Wall Street asset values, Lamy grinned visibly, but avoided addressing the latter issue. Replying at length on Europe, he said that he knew Jospin very well, and Jospin wants to “harness liberalism”; he is not against liberalism. He favors a “rules-based liberalism,” which he sees as a “win-win” position, Lamy said. He added that he also knew Antonio Fazio, and was sure he would not disagree with this view. On Schröder, Lamy would only say that his action was caused by conditions of the “internal market.”

At a briefing on Nov. 30 by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Business and Agriculture Al Larson, Marcia Merry Baker raised both the European national-interest moves, and the parallel sentiment in the United States, as shown by the 30,000-person anti-WTO march earlier in the day. Larson

replied only that he had accompanied Albright in a round of pre-summit meetings with American business, labor, farm, and local government interests, all of whom support free trade, and “those are the voices that we heard.”

As for hearing voices, the delegates were spared hearing Albright’s, the summit’s keynote speaker, because anti-WTO protests delayed the opening session by five hours, and she left town.

By Dec. 2, even more moves in Europe were playing into Seattle. Schröder and Jospin had met in Paris, and then went to Spain to announce a three-nation Airbus consortium. When Schlanger raised this at the EC daily briefing, pointing out that in WTO-speak, this would be called free trade “distorting,” laughter broke out. EC spokesman Falkenberg replied in earnest that, usually when we talk about “trade distorting” acts, we are referring to agriculture, “but I can see what you mean.”

Later that evening in Seattle, before the last day of the conference, the controlled agenda broke down almost completely, as Third World spokesmen said that they were being “marginalized” and would likely not vote up anything at all (see below). At the Dec. 3 closing session, Barshefsky was booed by African leaders.

Eco-fascists riot in Seattle

by Harley Schlanger

The confrontation between demonstrators and police which initiated what some press dubbed the “Battle in Seattle” during the World Trade Organization (WTO) summit, broke out right in front of me, shortly after 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday morning, Nov. 30, when police moved in to clear the intersection of 6th and Pike, to ensure safe passage for press and delegates from the Sheraton Hotel to the Convention Center.

There were three actions which occurred simultaneously. As some demonstrators sat down and linked arms to block the intersection, police moved forward. At that moment, a group of 100-150 demonstrators, with black ski masks covering their faces, began throwing anything they could find at the police, who responded with blasts of pepper spray on those seated on the ground.

This pattern was repeated all day, as a small, highly disciplined group, intent on maximizing chaos in the streets, moved easily within a much larger group of peaceful demonstrators. This smaller group, which later broke windows of downtown stores and set bonfires in the streets, was largely ignored by police, who focussed exclusively on opening up intersections. It was only on Wednesday, Dec. 1, after a state

of civil emergency was declared, giving the police the back-up of National Guard troops, that mass arrests took place.

As the first battle unfolded on Tuesday, I saw a group of four scruffy-looking men break through police lines, waving what looked like press passes as they moved toward the Convention Center. As I heard them speak, at least two of them had British accents. When a policeman came over to check them out more carefully, he asked one of them what was causing the bulge under his coat.

He said it was a cell phone, but as he reached around to show the officer his phone, a cannister of some sort fell out, and the policeman grabbed him. His associates fled, but police caught two of them, while the fourth disappeared into the crowd.

British-trained terrorists

This vignette is typical of the hit-and-run tactics employed by the highly organized and well-trained “affinity groups” of eco-fascists intent on wreaking havoc on the streets of Seattle. The vast majority of protesters were there to express opposition to the WTO, and they presented their case peacefully. In fact, it was quite an impressive sight to see the march of almost 30,000 trade unionists later Tuesday afternoon, who paraded with discipline and spirit down a path cleared by the police. Numerous delegates from developing nations later commented that they gained courage to resist WTO globalist looting schemes in part from seeing that there is significant opposition among U.S. citizens to those schemes.

As soon as the labor demonstration ended, however, the pitched battles between police and the violent core of eco-

fascists picked up again, with police soon escalating to use of rubber bullets in the attempt to clear the streets.

From direct observation, it was obvious that the police were poorly prepared for what they were facing. At one of the many press conferences held by Mayor Schell and Police Chief Stamper, they said they did not have enough officers available to make mass arrests on the first day, so they chose instead to adopt measures of “crowd control.” The Mayor defended their preparation, saying, “There was extensive planning for all contingencies and possibilities.”

But policemen told the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* that preparations were completely inadequate, as was obvious from the view from the streets. One officer, Brett Smith, a ten-year veteran, said that they were assured by Assistant Chief Ed Joiner during a training session that they did not expect violent protests, that “there’s nothing to worry about.”

Smith added, “We heard that officials from Geneva, where the WTO had been held before (and where there had been violent demos) had offered to tell us what happened and how they dealt with it and the department said, ‘We don’t need your assistance, we’ve got it covered.’ ”

Naturally, the press highlighted the actions of the eco-fascist shock troops, and the police response to them, but that presented a distorted picture of what was the actual “Battle in Seattle”: the beginning of an awakening by many Americans to realization that submission to the WTO would mean the end of our nation as a sovereign nation-state, and the recognition among many delegates opposed to WTO dictatorship that they have allies within the United States, as the “Pearl Harbor effect” begins to hit these shores.

Prince Philip’s eco-terrorists

Of the tens of thousands of protesters who converged on Seattle for the World Trade Organization conference, a hard core of anarchists and eco-fascists, estimated to number less than 1,000, were responsible for nearly all of the havoc, violence, looting, and burning. Many came from Canada and Great Britain, courtesy of Prince Philip and his World Wildlife Fund-centered funding and operations command-structure. A core of Pacific Northwest-based American eco-terrorists, associated with groups such as Earth First!, the Animal Liberation Front, the Ruckus Society, and the Rainforest Action Network, had been working for nearly a year with their British and Canadian counterparts, to ensure that Seattle was thrown into a state of siege.

Anyone wishing to track the planning and preparations for these days of rage could have done so on the worldwide web. Furthermore, in June of this year, nearly simultaneous urban riots were staged in the City of London and in Eugene, Oregon, by the same transatlantic terrorist apparatus. These riots were a dry run for Seattle.

According to West Coast investigator Barry Clausen, a month before the WTO summit, a terrorist training camp was established near Arlington, Washington under the auspices of the San Francisco-based Ruckus Society. Here, the British, Canadian, and American terrorists who surfaced on the streets of Seattle in black ski masks, went through their final paramilitary drills.

The events in Seattle were the beginning of what could emerge as a global eco-terrorist offensive, coinciding with the new millennium. Such a helter-skelter scenario will only be stopped if the eco-fascist danger is taken on from the top down — starting with the “millennium virus” himself, Prince Philip. — *Jeffrey Steinberg*