

# The malthusians behind the Brazil 1992 conference

by Mark Burdman

The same United Nations-centered institutions and individuals who have authorized and codified the malthusian "new world order" now being implemented with bloody force in the Persian Gulf, are coordinating the international preparations for the June 1-12, 1992 U.N. Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), commonly referred to as "ECO '92," in Brazil. In many cases, these institutions or individuals were involved in creating the environmentalist movement two decades ago.

The case in point is Canada's Maurice Strong, the secretary general of UNCED, whose secretariat is based in Geneva. The formal overall coordination for the June 1992 Brazil conference is under his direction. Strong was appointed to this post by the same U.N. secretary general, Javier Pérez de Cuellar, whose duplicitous diplomacy and craven submission to the Anglo-American powers was instrumental in making the Persian Gulf war possible. The appointment of Strong was made in February 1990, some seven weeks after the Dec. 22, 1989 U.N. General Assembly decision to convene the UNCED in Brazil.

## Who is Maurice Strong?

Strong was secretary general of the 1972 U.N. Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, a seminal event in launching the global ecological-fascist movement in earnest; the Brazil event is conceived as the 20th anniversary commemoration. Strong is also a patron and member of the malthusian Club of Rome International; was formerly co-chairman of the policy board of the Inter-Action Council, the malthusian group created in 1983 by former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and figures in the U.N. Development Program; and served as chairman of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, a Switzerland-based group that is operationally close to Prince Philip's World Wide Fund for Nature (formerly World Wildlife Fund). Strong is now president of the U.N.-linked World Federation of United Nations Associations, headquartered in Geneva. He has made a fortune in the fields of energy (serving as president and chairman of the board of Petrocanada) and water, the battle for control over which "scarce resources" is a key factor motivating the new world order military, economic, and diplomatic policies of George Bush.

UNCED is the officially authorized U.N. body which is

responsible for the work formerly done by the World Commission for Environment and Development, which had been established by U.N. mandate in December 1983. The World Commission is better known as the "Brundtland Commission," which was headed by the prime minister of Norway, Gro Harlem Brundtland. Strong was one of the commissioners.

Brundtland is an important Socialist International ideologue promoting Bush's new world order. She was in London during the week of Feb. 11 and, on Feb. 14, gave an address at Cambridge University's Clare Hall. Her theme was that the lesson to be learned from the war against Iraq was that there had to be an effective international control system preventing the flow of advanced weapons-related technology to the developing world, which means, of course, denial of advanced technologies more generally to the developing world, exactly as her Brundtland Commission had recommended. "We must see to it that the principles of international law which have justified the current operation [the Gulf war] will be systematically applied in the future," she stated. She had only days before made a similar "arms-technology control" proposal before the prestigious annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. The ubiquitous Maurice Strong is chairman of the Council of the World Economic Forum.

## The 'sustainable development' fraud

The Brundtland Commission published a report in 1987 entitled *Our Common Future*, which is a malthusian blueprint for preventing the industrial and technological development of the countries south of the Tropic of Cancer. The report's expression for this policy is "sustainable development," which is repeated with the monotony of cultists chanting "Hare Krishna."

The term "sustainable development" was coined by the British aristocrat Lady Barbara Ward Jackson, on the occasion of the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. It was then popularized by the London-based International Institute for Environment and Development, the founding of which was inspired by Lady Jackson, who became the IIED's first president. The IIED's literature extols her in these terms: "Barbara Ward's great achievement was to speak to the world and to open their eyes to the problems of a small planet with limited resources, faced with rising expectations from an exploding population."

The IIED was the first prominent oligarchical thinktank which juxtaposed the words "environment" and "development" in the manner that has now become ecologist jargon. The IIED can therefore be considered as one of the seminal policy thinktanks for the new world order. Several members of its advisory board or board of directors have served on the Brundtland Commission. Its current chairman is Robert O. Anderson, a board member of Kissinger Associates, former chairman of Atlantic Richfield oil corporation, and a chief founder and patron of the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies.

Among the funders and patrons of the IIED are leading banks and oil companies, including the American Express Foundation, the Atlantic Richfield Foundation, Barclays Bank, Bankers Trust Foundation, Citibank, Hill Samuel bank, Morgan Guaranty Trust, National Westminster Bank, the Royal Bank of Scotland, Security Pacific Foundation, Shell Companies Foundation, and Standard and Chartered Bank. One special IIED project, "Brundtland Followup," is funded by Royal Dutch Shell.

The IIED is today deeply involved in preparations for ECO '92, including organizing debates on such themes as "environmental economics and sustainable development" and "implications of climate change for the South," and organizing national and international discussions on "the environment/development debate on the community level."

### **'The first and last occasion of this century'**

While UNCED has assumed the mantle of the Brundtland Commission, particularly for the culminating event of the environmentalists' extravaganza in Brazil in 1992, the "private" international organizing body for the event is the Center for Our Common Future, also based in Geneva. The center has established an "International Facilitating Committee" for ECO '92, comprising 86 organizations from 33 countries, for the June 1992 meetings, and publishes *Network '92*, a newsletter to coordinate information about international organizing, and the *Brundtland Bulletin*, which gives more general information about activities of the global ecological movement.

The Center for Our Common Future is well funded by various agencies, including several Scandinavian and other European governments, the City of Geneva, the Gro Harlem Brundtland Environment Foundation, and the Chicago-based John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The last is the leading funder of environmentalist-ecologist projects in the United States. Among its many projects, the foundation provided *all* of the money for setting up the World Resources Institute (WRI) in the U.S. The director of the WRI, Jessica Tuchman Mathews, wrote an article in the Feb. 16 London *Guardian* asserting that the "brave new world order" was not being created these days in the Gulf, but had more formally been established in Chantilly, Virginia during the just-concluded meetings on the matter of "global warming."

*Network '92* profiles, on a monthly basis, the activities of groups around the world involved in mobilizing for the

Brazil events. One of its more singular reports is about a group called ECOINFORM in the Soviet Union, "which stands out in its leading role in preparing activities for ECO '92. . . . It works with other environment groups, such as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). . . . ECOINFORM is now establishing links with groups outside the Soviet Union, such as the Center for Our Common Future, to facilitate the involvement of Soviet environment groups in ECO '92." The newsletter comments: "Under the influence of perestroika, lobbying for environmental protection and awareness are high on the agenda for new initiatives and involvement by the Soviet people."

Indeed, the depth of recent Soviet commitment to the Brazil conference is seen in the *International Affairs* article by then Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. Whether Shevardnadze's departure and the ongoing internal transformations toward a military-veered neo-Stalinist state will change the U.S.S.R.'s commitment to global ecologism remains to be seen. But so far, the Gorbachov team has been in the forefront of global ecologist initiatives, highlighted by Gorbachov's own Dec. 7, 1988 speech before the U.N. General Assembly calling for a new ecologist world order. In January 1990, on the occasion of a meeting in Moscow of the Parliamentarians and Spiritual Leaders for Human Survival, the Soviet President called for upgrading the 1992 Brazil conference into a meeting of heads of state from around the world. In fact, one of the events for June 1992 being publicized by the UNCED secretariat and the Center for our Common Future, is a "solemn session" in Manaus, Brazil that would be attended by "heads of state and government."

*Network '92* also profiles the activities of regions of the world for ECO '92, including Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Europe, the United States and Canada, and Africa. In the U.S., for example, there has been information provided on an "informal Independent Sector Coordinating Committee on Environment and Development," composed of "a core group of some of the largest environment and development Non-Governmental Organizations in the U.S.," including: the National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation, Global Tomorrow Coalition, INTERACTION, International Organization of Consumer Unions, World Resources Institute, Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, Zero Population Growth, Union of Concerned Scientists, and others.

The Center for Our Common Future exults the importance of ECO '92. Center executive director Warren Lindner, former secretary of the Brundtland Commission, wrote in August 1990: "ECO '92 presents the first occasion this century—and most certainly the last—when all member governments of the United Nations will gather to address these critical issues of common concern to the inhabitants of this planet."