

Eco-fascists promote fake New Bretton Woods

by Our Special Correspondent

Over the past months, Lyndon LaRouche's program for a New Bretton Woods conference, which would put the bloated world financial system into bankruptcy reorganization and restart economic production on the basis of large-scale infrastructure projects, has received widespread international support, amidst a revolt against the policies of "globalization" and "free trade." Under such circumstances, it is not surprising that the British-centered international oligarchy, in an effort to neutralize LaRouche's influence, would mobilize certain forces to follow the lead of British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and echo the words "New Bretton Woods," while promoting a destructive agenda.

One of the more insidious efforts in this respect is "The Siena Declaration on the Crisis of Economic Globalization," published as an advertisement in the Nov. 20 *New York Times*. At first glance, the declaration appears quite sane. It charges that "economic globalization" has led to "an extreme volatility in global financial markets and great vulnerability for all nations and people." It pins the blame on supranational organizations that set "the rules of global trade and investment," including the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Maastricht Treaty, and the World Bank. The declaration gives support to the "serious corrective action," including capital controls and reining in currency speculation, taken by Malaysia, India, China, and other countries.

But on closer examination, matters begin to look quite suspect. The Siena Declaration historically locates the source of the plague of globalization in the original Bretton Woods conference of 1944. This is tantamount to holding U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt in large part to blame for today's maladies, and ignores the fact that the original Bretton Woods accords provided a viable basis for economic growth internationally, until the mid-1960s "paradigm shift" toward "post-industrial," "ecologist" policies and the Aug. 15, 1971 "free floating exchange rates."

Having damned the original 1944 conference, the Siena Declaration, paradoxically, calls for a "new Bretton Woods-type international conference," but one that sounds more like a Tower of Babel than an event to take emergency measures

to prevent world depression. Their "new Bretton Woods conference" would include not only "representatives of nation-states, bankers, and industry," but also "an equal number of citizen organizations from every country to design economic models" that "place human, social and ecological values above economic values." There is no program offered for global reconstruction, once the ravages of globalization are done away with.

The listed endorsers of the Siena Declaration include leading figures in the international green ecology movement, from groups like the Rainforest Action Network, the London-based Gaia Foundation, and the International Society for Ecological Economics. *EIR* has learned that the name "Siena Declaration" derives from the fact that it was drawn up at a September 1998 meeting in the home, in Siena, Italy, of Britain's Edward ("Teddy") Goldsmith, one of the creators and leaders of "ecologism."

Echoes of Prince Philip and Pol Pot

The Siena Declaration was prepared by the board of directors and committee on global finance of the San Francisco-based International Forum on Globalization (IFG); Goldsmith is one of the board members. The IFG was created in January 1994, in reaction to the passage of NAFTA, and the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of the GATT agreement. It claims to represent 40 organizations in 19 countries.

In January 1995, it produced a "mission statement," asserting that "the IFG advocates equitable, democratic and ecologically sustainable economies." It combined attacks on GATT, the WTO, and the "structural adjustment programs of the IMF and World Bank," with a grab-bag of ecologist policies aimed at achieving "a far more diversified, locally controlled, community-based economics." Toward this end, the mission statement called for "abandonment of the paradigm of unlimited economic growth—which is blind to ecological limits and seeks to maximize consumption and material throughput." This, of course, establishes a false equation between globalization and economic growth, whereas in fact globalization has led to a contraction of real, physical economic growth around the world during the past three decades. Other clauses called for "recognition of the rights and sovereignty of indigenous peoples," an open invitation to the break-up of existing sovereign nation-states; "encouragement of biodiversity," a code phrase for reducing the human species to equality with plant and animal species; and "development of autonomous, regional, and local cycles of production and consumption based primarily on renewable resources of energy and raw materials." The mission statement also propagandized about the alleged dangers of "ozone depletion" and "global warming."

The director of the IFG, Jerry Mander, works out of the San Francisco offices of the Foundation for Deep Ecology,

the brainchild of, and which is bankrolled by, American multi-millionaire Douglas Tompkins. The phrase "Deep Ecology" is taken from the writings of Norwegian kook-ecologist Arne Naess, who has written that the world population should be reduced to 500 million to 2 billion people. Sources report that Tompkins is "very keen on Arne Naess." The foundation has provided funding for Earth First! eco-terrorist David Foreman, who has welcomed the emergence of the AIDS virus as a means to reduce world population. That is an echo of Britain's Prince Philip, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) head who, in 1986, proclaimed that he would like to be reincarnated as a deadly virus, to reduce the world's population. An echo of the British Royal Consort is otherwise found in Tompkins's funding of "ecological parks" in South America.

Goldsmith shares Prince Philip's worldview. His brother, the late Sir James Goldsmith, was an Anglo-French multi-billionaire who poured substantial sums of money into ecologism (including WWF projects) and into bogus campaigns against globalization and free trade. Sir James set up the Goldsmith Foundation which, today, is one of the funders of the Gaia Foundation. Some three decades back, Teddy founded London's *The Ecologist* magazine. In that publication, in the 1970s, his advocacy of Gaia (Mother Earth) worship and deindustrialization went so far, as to include praise for the "back to the land" policies of mass-murderer Pol Pot of Cambodia.

In a Dec. 7 discussion, Goldsmith forecast, almost certainly correctly, that there is a 90% likelihood that the global economy will collapse during 1999. His hope is that this will open an opportunity to "re-create local economies," but he sees that as unlikely. Rather, he foresees a new era of "total chaos, breakdown of central power, and warlordism." In his twisted illogic, this outcome is preferable to the continued existence of the globalized economy, since the latter is causing "global warming," and thereby leading to "the extinction of the human race."

'Transport infrastructure is evil'

The editorial board of *The Ecologist* comprises the board of an organization in Britain called the International Society for Ecology and Culture (ISEC). ISEC director Helene Norberg-Hodge is also a board member of IFG, and professes to have been the "driving force" behind the creation of the IFG in 1994. In a recent discussion, Norberg-Hodge launched into what seemed to be a cogent attack on NAFTA, GATT, and related globalization institutions. Then, she suddenly gave as an example of her view of the problem, "the subsidizing of transport infrastructure," because "expansion of transport infrastructure" undermines the tax base, hurts local communities, and abets globalization. She ranted that there is a "demonstrable, mad investment in infrastructure" taking place around the world. Asked if the China-led Eurasian Land-Bridge project were an example of what she was against, she responded, "Absolutely!" In the next breath,

she attacked the building of bridges linking Sweden, Denmark, and Norway; plans for connecting Spain and North Africa; and the already completed Channel Tunnel between Britain and France.

The ISEC released a report in October of this year, "Small Is Beautiful, Big Is Subsidized," which attacks transport infrastructure projects, and singles out the continental railway system in the United States. "Railway building in the U.S. began in the 1820s," and soon became part of the project to "subdue and civilize the untamed wilderness," the report notes. Then comes the real objection, indicating, once again, that the British hate the followers of President Abraham Lincoln: "Immediately following the Civil War, the Federal government officially embraced the idea of connecting the eastern and western halves of the continent by rail, and put vast resources at the command of the corporations that would construct the line."

This polemic is carried to its logical conclusion, as the ISEC report expresses the wish that the United States as a nation no longer exist! "Many people today believe things would be far better if the nation were divided into much smaller entities," it says.

The report also attacks "Trans-European Nets" (TENs), or the "Delors Plan" infrastructure program for Europe. This was drawn up by the European Commission under the EC presidency of France's Jacques Delors, and mandates an array of rail and road projects criss-crossing Europe. The report characterizes TENs as a plot to help build up supranational structures, favorable to multinational corporations, in Europe. A chart identifies the planned projects it finds most objectionable. Several of those listed are for high-speed rail links. The argument is, that high-speed rail destroys localities, because the trains only stop in bigger cities.

Following this, there is a laundry list of infrastructure projects objected to, in South America, China, India, Laos, and Nepal. Special animus is directed toward China's Three Gorges Dam project. One relevant chapter is entitled, "Expanding Infrastructure: The Road to Nowhere."

One of the contributors to the ISEC report is David Korten, of the People-Centered Development Forum in the United States, who is a signer of the Siena Declaration. Korten's 1995 book, *When Corporations Rule the World* (one of the funders of which was the Foundation for Deep Ecology), is somewhat of a bible for ecologist "anti-globalizers." In that book, Korten, former Ford Foundation operative, constantly recites the mantra of "local community control," as his alternative to globalization. As *EIR* stressed in a review of Korten's book (*EIR*, Aug. 15, 1997), "local community control" is a classic proto-fascist program, the application of which would be every bit as bad, if not worse, than globalization is now. The LaRouche movement, since its inception, has been in a bitter conflict with programs funded by the Ford Foundation and like agencies, for "local community control."