
Fourth World Conference On Women

British seek to ruin U.S.-China and U.S.-Vatican relations

by Marianna Wertz

The United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women, which began on Sept. 4 in Beijing and runs until Sept. 15, is shaping up as a British-run spectacle in which the Clinton administration's effort to forge a working relationship with the Chinese government, on the one hand, and the Vatican, on the other, are intended to be swept aside in a tidal wave of irrationality. The British wire service Reuters predicts a "Vatican-White House battle" over abortion, while British political assets, including Harry Wu and Amnesty International, are going all out to provoke a fight with Beijing.

What the British oligarchy fears is an outcome like that of the 1994 Cairo, Egypt U.N. Conference on Population and Development, where, despite many differences, the President joined with Pope John Paul II in opposing any international organization's usurping power to regulate social matters within sovereign nation-states. The forces allied with Royal Consort Prince Philip's World Wide Fund for Nature (formerly World Wildlife Fund), were savage in their attacks on this qualified agreement between the Vatican and the President. The same malthusian lobby has been savage in its attacks on the Clintons and the Chinese government.

The Beijing conference itself has been denounced as an "abomination" by American presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, whose political movement joined the battle at Cairo against the U.N.'s malthusian plans. LaRouche recently called on the United States to withdraw from the United Nations. While the conference will undoubtedly be an "abomination," as LaRouche said, at least its British authors may not get what they want out of it.

Nominally on the subject of women's human rights, the conference's draft agenda for action is directed toward imposing a malthusian population-control policy on nations worldwide, marketed under buzzwords like "sustainable development" and "women's empowerment." The largest U.N. conference in history will gather tens of thousands of delegates from 185 nations, including an unprecedented 30,000 delegates at the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Forum on Women that began Aug. 30, relegated to the Beijing suburb of Huairou by a Chinese government worried about these NGOs' radical-feminist agendas.

British agents at work

As *EIR* has documented in several recent articles, the policy of the British oligarchy is to seek a breakup of China through civil war and other means, and the Beijing conference, for them, is a forum for advancing those aims. The major pre-conference British ploy involved Chinese-American "human rights" advocate Harry Wu, who was tried and convicted of espionage and expelled from China Aug. 24, after what appeared to be a deliberately staged setup for his own arrest a few weeks earlier. While Wu was being detained in China, Britain's stooges—from the leftist "human rights" NGOs to U.S. congressional "conservative" insurgents—protested Hillary Clinton's going to Beijing. Once freed, Wu continued to protest Mrs. Clinton's participation.

Then, on Aug. 29, the eve of the NGO forum, Amnesty International, an unofficial arm of British intelligence, launched a provocative attack on the Beijing government. At Amnesty's first press conference in Beijing—they had been banned prior to the U.N. gathering—Amnesty Secretary-General Pierre Sane denounced Beijing for human rights abuses. Within hours, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Chen Jian called Amnesty "an organization that has always harbored deep prejudices against China," and warned that "any organization or individual that attends the U.N. conference on women should not use it as an opportunity to interfere in China's internal affairs."

In contrast, the Clinton administration went out of its way to avoid provocation—welcoming, on the same day as the Amnesty press conference, China's decision to establish an area for demonstrations at the NGO Forum. U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns called the decision to allow protests "a very good step." Burns also hailed Beijing's statement that its ambassador to Washington, Li Daoyu, would return to his post. Li was recalled to Beijing in June, in protest of the U.S. visit by Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui.

The results of the September 1994 U.N. Conference on Population and Development at Cairo set a pattern of reason that the British fear. At that conference, a working relationship emerged among the American delegation, the Vatican, and Muslim nations, assisted by the efforts of LaRouche's

Schiller Institute, to prevent the worst of the U.N.'s malthusian depopulation policies from being written into the final conference document.

The first sign of the U.S.-Vatican side of a renewed, Cairo-style working alliance appeared June 19, with the joint Washington, D.C. press conference by Hillary Clinton and Mother Teresa of Calcutta to dedicate the Mother Teresa Home for Infant Children in the District of Columbia, based upon a common commitment to the sanctity of human life and the necessity of caring for the poor. The home will house pregnant women, enabling them not to seek abortion but instead to make an adoption plan for their children.

Next came several papal releases in July denouncing the antihuman aspects of the Beijing draft agenda, followed by a private meeting between Vatican and Muslim leaders. At a press conference on Aug. 18 in Washington, D.C., several Islamic organizations denounced the draft agenda for the Beijing conference (See *EIR* Sept. 1, 1995). Then on Aug. 22, Egypt's Islamic institution Al-Azhar issued a strong attack on the conference, declaring that its draft declaration contradicts religion and aims to destroy the family.

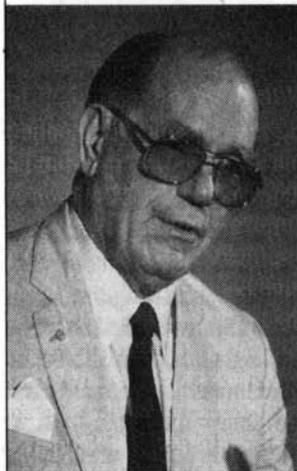
On Aug. 25, the Vatican announced an American woman to head the 22-person delegation of the Holy See to the conference—the first to have a female majority. Dr. Mary Ann Glendon, the Harvard law professor selected to head the delegation, says that she “favors debt reduction and other

economic policies embraced by the developing world,” and will represent the views of the millions of poor Roman Catholic women who live in the developing sector. Part of her legal training involved free legal work for indigent prisoners in Chicago and volunteer defense work for civil rights workers in Mississippi in 1964.

After meeting with Pope John Paul II on Aug. 29, on her way to Beijing, Professor Glendon told reporters that she was not looking for a fight with radical feminists at the conference, but was “prepared for dialogue, for cooperation, for trying to shape a consensus.” She asserted that she is indeed representative of the majority of American women: “Let me say that nine out of 10 American women are married, five out of six American women are mothers and more than 50% of American mothers work, so I find it hard to see how I’m not representative,” she said. Glendon says she represents a “Christian feminism” which is “holistic” because it does not attempt to divide men and women.

The official White House statement announcing that Hillary Clinton will be honorary head of the U.S. delegation, focused on similar themes. “The conference represents a significant opportunity to chart further gains in the status of women, including strengthening families, promoting and protecting the human rights of women, expanding women’s participation in decision-making, and ensuring access to education and health care,” it said.

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