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## ‘Man Improves the Universe,’ U.A.E. Conference Affirms

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*At a seminar in Abu Dhabi, LaRouche collaborators Jonathan Tennenbaum and Dino de Paoli joined an international panel of experts to discuss “Man’s Role in Developing the Universe.”*

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Dr. Jonathan Tennenbaum and Dino de Paoli, associates of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., spoke at a conference in the United Arab Emirates on Aug. 4, called to discuss the broad and fascinating subject of “Man’s Role in Developing the Universe.” In this country known for its bold development and transformation of the desert, the Zayed Centre for Coordination and Follow-up invited scientists and speakers from Germany, France and Egypt, and a Russian scholar on Vladimir Vernadsky, Prof. Georgi Naumov.

The conference, entitled “The Universe and Man’s Destiny,” was attended by about 60 diplomats in the capital of Abu Dhabi, scholars from several Arab countries, and press representatives. On the day following the conference, the speakers were taken on an unforgettable tour of Seer Baniyas Island, which is being transformed from a completely barren territory into a fruitful agricultural area, using large-scale desalination of sea water, and modern irrigation techniques.

### Improving the Planet Should Bring Peace

The conference was opened by the Executive Director of the Centre, Mohammed Khalifa Al Murar, who welcomed the participants and the guests in the name of Sheikh Sultan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the U.A.E. “The process of tracing the secrets of this mysterious spacious universe is as old as man,” said Al Murar. “Man had been meditating about heavens and skies, eager to explore them. The creation of heaven and earth was the first global fact, with God’s hands holding the whole structure. . . . When we speak

about the Earth, we mean this very Earth upon which every living matter and being depends. The Earth has been made as an abode for life, fit for living and multiplication due to its specific characteristics. . . . Being scientists . . . you are requested by this conference to advocate the great *peace* between man’s mind and Existence, which should bring peace between people.”

A second opening greeting was delivered in the name of UNESCO’s Division of Ecological Sciences, by Dr. Lucilla Spini, an anthropologist and primate expert. She later delivered a report about UNESCO’s program for “Biosphere Reserves.”

Following this opening, Dr. Tennenbaum led off with a presentation on the theme “Can Man Improve the Planet?” He developed the rigorous relationship between global ecology and physical economy—as defined by Vernadsky and LaRouche—focussing on how man’s deliberate increase of his potential population density, by orders of magnitude, over the course of prehistory and history, has gone hand in hand with increasing the “anti-entropy” of the Biosphere as a whole. What is causing damage to the Biosphere, Tennenbaum insisted, is the wrong axioms of economics, as embodied in the policies of the International Monetary Fund, and the British and French physiocrats’ claim that wealth ultimately derives from natural resources, rather than from the creative powers of the human mind.

As a crucial example of how man must improve the planet in the future, Tennenbaum called for transforming large parts



*Dr. Jonathan Tennenbaum, a leading associate of Lyndon LaRouche in Germany, addresses the conferees in Abu Dhabi, on "Can Man Improve the Planet?" He is flanked by a second panelist, Prof. Georges Rossi (right), and by Zayed Centre Executive Director Mohammed Khalifa Al Murar.*

of the present desert areas of the Earth into fruitful agricultural areas in the course of the 21st Century, using a network of agro-industrial complexes based on nuclear desalination and other advanced technologies, and linked by infrastructure development corridors.

Dino de Paoli, choosing the theme "Man is a Unique Guarantor for the Future of the Earth," challenged the audience to imagine what it would mean, if life on the Earth were to be threatened with extinction due to collision with an asteroid. Man is certainly capable of developing technological means to avert such a catastrophe, but what if he were prevented from doing so, by the kinds of Malthusian and "greenie" anti-science policies now prevalent in the world? The paradox posed, requires rethinking the relationship of man to the universe, and realizing that it is ultimately only man that provides the "life insurance" for the Biosphere.

De Paoli provocatively attacked the axiomatic fallacies underlying Malthusianism, including the notion that the universe is intrinsically entropic. "As long as we try to reduce life to matter, and reduce the mind to the brain, we will have difficulties in explaining life and human cognition. . . ." The difficulty disappears, de Paoli said, once we take the perspective, "that the human mind is a lawful, causal force acting in this universe."

### **No Such Thing As 'Natural Environment'**

Prof. Georges Rossi, professor of geology at the University of Bordeaux, France, and an expert on the environmental impact of agriculture and forestry in developing countries, exposed the fallacies of "environmentalism" from a different angle. Speaking on the question, "Is the Future of the Planet

Really Menaced?," Rossi noted that there is no such thing on the Earth today as a completely natural environment, unaffected by man. The development even of tropical forests and other so-called "virgin" areas, in their present form, has been influenced and determined to a large extent by human activity over centuries—activity that has constantly changed the environment in such a way as to permit a growing human population to exist.

Rossi's main target, however, was the hoax of "global warming." He emphasized the massive manipulation of public opinion, in which a false picture of the scientific conclusions is being presented, which differs radically from what scientists are actually writing in the research journals. He warned that "Malthus is still alive today."

To Rossi's polemic, Prof. Herve le Treut, one of the official French representatives to the infamous UN Commission on Climate Change, responded very defensively. He complained that "exaggerations" about the danger of global warming were tending to "discredit the authority of scientific research," which, he claimed, did show the existence of a real danger.

But the next speaker, Dr. Ahmed Abdul-Hadi of the Faculty of Astronomy and Meteorology at the University of Cairo, emphasized the intimate connection between the influence of changes in the Sun, and the global climate. Thousands of years of documented records of variations in the Nile River provide Egyptian scientists with a unique data-base for studying the correlations of solar activity with the Earth's climate and weather, he noted. Although human activities have some impact, Abdul-Hadi showed that it is insignificant compared to that of the constant variations in sunspot activity.



*View of Baniyas Island, showing how the desert is being cultivated. Water is provided to each plant, using the so-called droplet method, by a huge network of pipes. Twenty-five years ago the island was almost completely barren, with virtually no plant or animal life.*

He explained how relatively small shifts in solar output, and phase-shifts in sunspot cycles, have major influences on the Earth's atmosphere.

At the conclusion, the conference heard a condensed summary of a paper by Professor Naumov of the Vernadsky State Geological Museum in Moscow, a leading Russian authority on the life and work of the great scientific pioneer Vladimir Vernadsky. Next year will mark the 140th anniversary of Vernadsky's birth.

Naumov's paper was a wonderful pedagogical presentation on how Vernadsky discovered the principles of the Biosphere and the Noösphere (the sphere governed by human cognitive activity and discovery), starting from his work on minerology and biochemistry. Naumov emphasized Vernadsky's conclusion, that human reason represented a "geological force" transforming the planet, and that man must study nature from the standpoint of directing the future development of the Biosphere in a positive sense.

The closing discussion provided an opportunity to contrast the "ugly idea" of the Clash of Civilizations, with the notion of a common interest and destiny of mankind in developing the universe—a conception, some participants noted, in accord with the Islamic ideas. In this discussion, the lasting effect of Lyndon LaRouche's presentation to a Zayed Centre conference on June 2, was notable.

### **'Green Paradise' Being Created**

On the next day the guests were taken on a tour of Seer Baniyas Island, about 300 km from Abu Dhabi, the site of a unique experiment in large-scale transformation of a totally barren area into a "green paradise."

The project was launched at the personal initiative of

Sheikh Zayed in the 1970s, with the construction of a large desalination plant on the coast, underwater pipelines linking the plant over 8 kilometers to the island, and other infrastructure. The planting of selected species of bushes and trees, fed with desalinated water via a vast network of pipes according to the method of "drip irrigation," began in 1980. Today, after 20 years, certain areas have already reached a kind of "take-off," where the vegetation has fused to form a continuous cover. The overall growth of trees and other plants has resulted in a lowering of the temperature on the island by 3-5° since the project began. This cooling effect was quite noticeable, compared to surrounding temperatures reaching up to 50°C (122° Fahrenheit) at this time of year!

About 80% of the island's total area of 230 square kilometers is now planted, including some 3.5 million trees. There are 250,000 fruit trees, including mango, orange, banana, apple, fig, pineapple, and lemon trees, plus vegetable and grass farms. The latter produce feed for a large variety of animals, being bred on the island. These included animals from the Gulf area, such as the graceful Arabian gazelles, as well as many animals brought in from other areas of the world, such as llamas, zebras, various species of deer, water bucks; and over 80 species of birds, from ostriches and pheasants to ducks, geese, and swans. In addition, many species of migrating birds have established themselves on this once-desert island. At the end of the tour, the conference visitors were served a sumptuous meal, prepared entirely from the produce of the island.

One member of the Zayed Centre proudly called this "an example of the Noösphere in action."



*Dr. Jonathan Tennenbaum: "Ultimately there is no other source of economic wealth than the improvement of the Earth, and especially of human life, which is its greatest treasure."*