

Clarity About Cairo

by Gary L. Bauer

How stupid does the present administration think the pro-life community is? Don't answer that—it's all too obvious, to judge by their verbal maneuvers regarding the United Nations' International Conference on Population and Development, taking place in Cairo, Egypt.

Over a four-year period preceding the Cairo conference, the international population control clique put together a "Draft Final Document of the Conference," which calls for extensive governmental activity to promote abortion, force-feed sex education and contraceptive equipment to teenagers, and undermine traditional family structures.

Beginning in the very first chapter, the document calls for "provision of universal access to family planning and reproductive health services" (Section 1.18). The same veiled references to abortion occur in Sections 3.16, 3.17, and 3.18. Section 6.7(b) calls for "children and youth" to have "access to education, health, counselling and high-quality services in sexual and reproductive health care" (emphasis added). Chapter 7, entitled "Reproductive Rights, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Family Planning," contains Section 7.2, which holds that "sexual and reproductive rights" belong in the same category as "certain human rights that are already recognized in various international human rights documents. . ."

Section 7.4 announces: "All countries should strive to make accessible through the primary health care system . . . family counselling, information, education, communication and services; education and services for prenatal care, safe delivery, pregnancy termination and postnatal care . . ." (emphasis added).

This is the document that our State Department, and our Vice President, have been telling us is not pro-abortion.

Bishop James McHugh, a leading Vatican representative on population issues at the United Nations, told a convention of the Knights of Columbus on August 3 that many nations are interested in a balanced and abortion-free approach to issues of population and devel-

opment, but that the current leadership of the United States is not allowing such a consensus to gel. Said McHugh: ". . . the bulwark of opposition is the United States of America, whose representatives are single-minded, hard-headed, and intransigent, and who are using both the power and prestige of this nation to ensure the agreement and support of other nations for the so-called American point of view."

We've come a long and tragic way since the Mexico City population conference ten years ago, where U.S. representatives, guided by the Reagan administration, led the way to declaring that abortion is not an acceptable means of population control.

There was another point, too, that we made at Mexico City: the "population problem" has been vastly oversimplified. Population growth, in itself, is simply not an obstacle to development, as witness the highly developed and heavily populated nations of the Pacific rim, in contrast with poor and sparsely populated nations such as Ethiopia. For all the ballyhooed increases in world population, the entire population of the world today could fit inside the state of Texas, with plenty of elbow room.

Needless to say, this is not the position that the U.S. is taking at Cairo. It is taking the view that population control is a major global necessity requiring massive governmental intervention. This view serves many agendas: it serves abortion entrepreneurs; it serves corrupt socialist governments in the Third World that want to shift the blame for their economic mismanagement; it serves the new anti-humanists who see mankind as nefarious intruders on the "goddess" earth; and it serves that vast class of people—whom we always seem to have with us—who love exercising power over other people's families.

By the time you read this, the Cairo conference will probably be over. Let us hope that changes were made in the final document. And let us help rally the world against an ideology that is anti-family and anti-life.

THE UNITED STATES IS NOT ALLOWING A CONSENSUS TO GEL.

ON THE HORIZON

- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission goes back to drawing board on regulations regarding religious expression at work. Senators Howell Heflin (D-Ala.) and Hank Brown (R-Colo.) amended Commerce, State, and Justice Appropriations bill to order EEOC to withdraw controversial guidelines first issued last year. Heflin-Brown instructed EEOC to hold wide array of public hearings before proceeding. Amendment passed by voice vote. Expect chastened EEOC to draft more narrowly crafted guidelines. Possible danger: EEOC may allow federal courts, already often hostile to religious expression, to develop case law without guidelines to guide government attorneys. Vigilance still needed.

- Expect more resistance to People for the American Way (PAW) attempts to portray school book censorship as rampant. In August, Focus on the Family, with help from FRC, held press conference defending parental rights in school curriculum debates. PAW annually releases "back to school" report labeling as "censors" everyone who comments on or protests public school materials. Focus press conference "scooped" PAW with analysis of last year's report showing that for the "most censored" book, there were only seven complaints among 84,000 public schools. None of the most often challenged books was removed; only two were restricted. Of 347 alleged attempts at "censorship," 244 involved calls from parents or grand-parents.

- More litigation looms on "don't ask, don't tell" policy re homosexuals in military. A statement of homosexuality alone is insufficient reason to discharge sailors, 9th U.S. Circuit Appeals Court panel ruled August 31. Case involved Petty Officer Keith Meinhold, who announced on *ABC World News Tonight*: "Yes, I am in fact gay." Although the circuit panel ruled on pre-Clinton policy, which states that declaring oneself homosexual is sufficient grounds for dismissal, its decision casts shadows over current policy as well. Government appeal is likely.