

For an Ecumenical Dialogue Based on An Economic Science Coherent with The Laws of God's Creation

by Helga Zepp-LaRouche

Sometimes in human history, when mankind has violated God's laws for a long period of time and subsequently has brought enormous misery upon itself, God calls upon some of us to step forward and to intervene to change the course of events.

I believe that the initiators of this Dialogue were guided by such a Divine inspiration, and that what we are called upon to do is extremely necessary to avoid a catastrophe for the human species.

I also believe that it is not a coincidence that we are undertaking this effort here, in Sudan, the heart of Africa. Because it is Africa which is affected the most by this world crisis, by what Pope John Paul II has called in his encyclical *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* (*On Social Concern*) the "structures of sin."

This encyclical was published in 1987, before the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the Pope insisted that these structures of sin existed equally in the East under

Helga Zepp-LaRouche, founder of the Schiller Institute, delivered this address to the opening session of a "Conference on Religions," in Khartoum, Sudan, April 26, 1993.



Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche addresses the Sudan "Conference on Religions."

Communism, as well as in the West under "unrestrained liberal economics."

It was to the dismay of many, including so-called "Christian" politicians in the West, that the Pope reiterated after the opening of the borders in 1989 that the collapse, and thus the complete failure of Communism, did not prove that liberal capitalism was any better, and that the "structures of sin" were still persisting, and that the proof of this was the impoverishment and misery in the so-called Third World.

Let me speak very frankly. The reality is that Africa has been written off by the international financial

institutions for years. There is no intention of helping the economic development of Africa on the part of the I.M.F., the World Bank, or any Western government, for that matter. What is behind such words as "overpopulation," "structural adjustment," "appropriate technology," or "sustainable development," is in reality the neo-Malthusian policy of a relatively small group of people who believe that the world should forever be ruled by a small oligarchical elite, presently dominated by the Anglo-American establishment, and that the rest

of the vast majority of the world's population should be kept in backwardness, practically modern slavery.

Rather than helping Africa to overcome the heritage of centuries of colonialism and to provide for cheap credit to realize the urgently required infrastructure and other development projects, there has been a net capital outflow of over one-hundred billion dollars from Africa to the North over the last ten years! And this occurred during a time when even official United Nations reports spoke about the fact that forty million people in Africa are threatened with death by starvation and disease.

There is a very simple name for this—it is called conscious and willful genocide!

The reality is that we are in a global depression as a result of monetarist policies which are concerned with the interests of the banks, but not with the existence of peoples. If these policies are not reversed, we are heading for a global catastrophe, the potential depopulation of large parts of Africa due to hunger and epidemics like AIDS, the "Africanization" of most of Ibero-America, the explosion of Russia and eventually China into civil war and chaos, and the danger of a global Thirty Years War in which eventually all weapons would be used, including nuclear weapons.

Because we are looking at a potential crisis which is like none other in human history ever before, we are called upon to change the direction of global politics, not just some small reform here and there, but the entire direction of these policies. We have to overcome the depression; we need a global reconstruction of the world economy which allows the survival of all peoples on this planet.

Especially because the existing political and economic order in the world is responsible for the nearly limitless misery of hundreds of millions of the world's people and has violated the laws of the Divine order of Creation, the religions are called upon to work together on an ecumenical basis to overcome the crisis.

The religious dialogue is not only necessary, and eminently possible for all people who love God, our Creator, but it only fulfills its necessity when it addresses the question of human existence, and that is how to create the basis for the survival of all presently living human beings on a level in accordance with the dignity of each human being as being in the image of God, *imago viva Dei*.

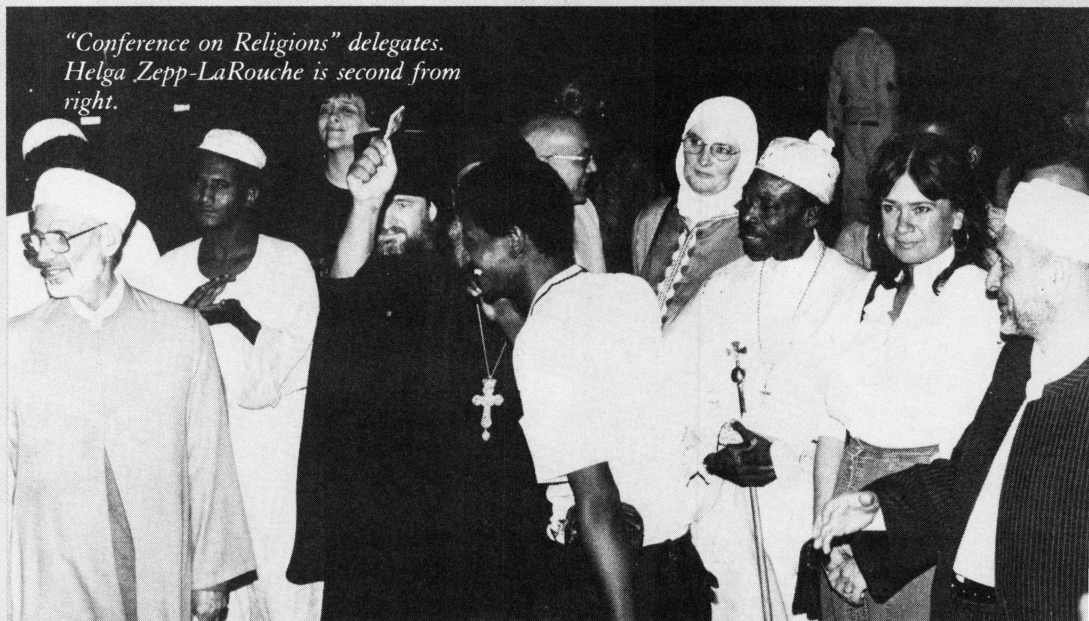
Contrary to the contemptuous propaganda of pagan interest groups, the problem in the developing countries is not one of overpopulation, since their population density is mostly only a tiny percentage of that of the industrial nations, but the problem is that the existing technologies are being denied to the larger part of humanity—this is what is openly called "technological apartheid."

There are not too many human beings, but the problem consists of the fact that, as a result of neo-Malthusian policies, the agricultural and industrial capacities have dropped below the level required to sustain the actually living individuals on an adequate level. A continuation of these monetarist policies is threatening to lead to the depopulation of entire continents, and could eventually lead to the collapse of human civilization.

Mankind is the only species in creation which has the capacity to increase its potential population density willfully, but at the same time it is the species which *must*

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*"Conference on Religions" delegates.
Helga Zepp-LaRouche is second from
right.*



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do this as the precondition for its continued existence. Because at each level of development, the so-called “natural resources” are relatively finite, or their development becomes relatively too expensive, so that a continuation of production on the same technological level indeed reaches relative limits to growth.

So, the population potential on the earth, at the level of the “hunting and gathering” society, was maximally five to ten million people, because a specific number of square kilometers of area was necessary to maintain every individual. It was only through the unique, continued ability of man to again and again generate scientific and technological progress on the basis of his creative reason, which, applied in the productive process, always *leads* to renewed definitions of what represented “natural resources,” and to a related increase in the potential population density.

The durable survivability of a society depends on the condition that the physical standard of living with respect to nourishment, health care, education, etc., increase *per capita*, and that also life expectancy increase, which is reflected in *per capita* and *per square kilometer* energy use in production and consumption. Technological progress and the increase in the potential population density are therefore necessary to existence, because of the increasing

division of labor. They are not a choice, they are part of the law of God’s Creation.

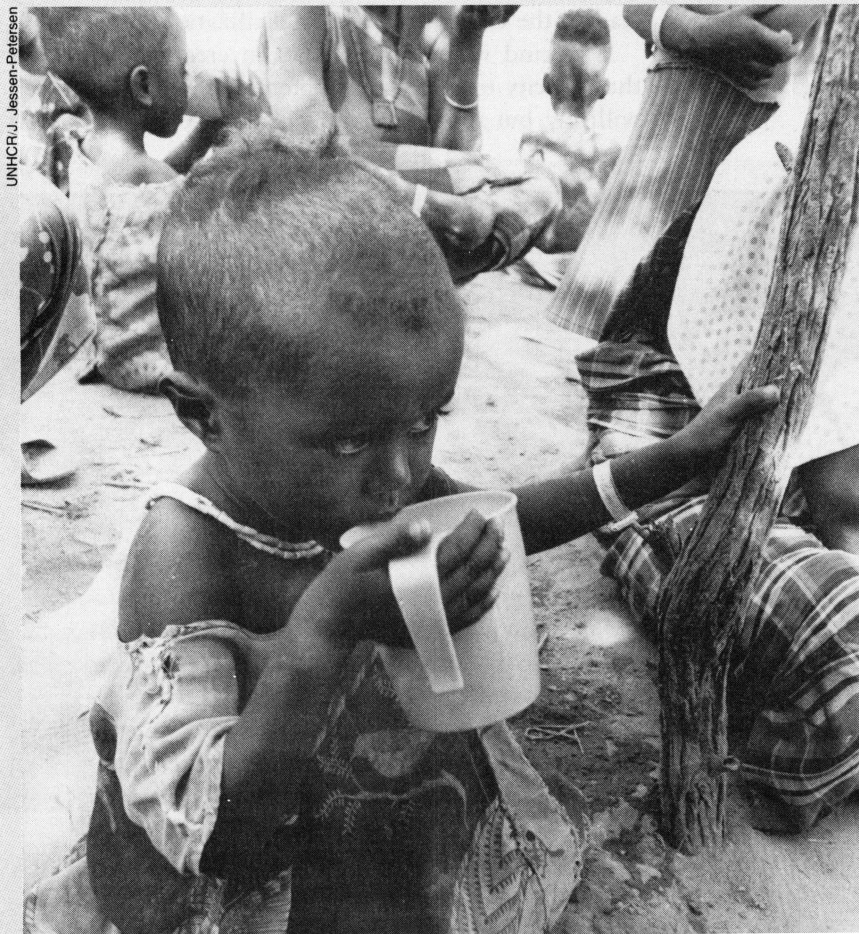
In the Bible, in the Book of Genesis 1:26, we read: “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.” And then He mandated that man, “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”

This *is* the law of Creation. Whenever mankind follows it, there is progress; whenever he violates it, society collapses, as it is doing now.

What distinguishes man absolutely from all other species of Creation is his capacity for Reason, and therefore, in the realm of the spiritual, his capacity to generate again and again ever more adequate hypotheses, which, applied in the material realm, lead to an ever better domination of the physical universe, which again leads to an increase in the potential population density.

The continued existence of mankind is therefore the proof for a correspondence of the Microcosm and the Macrocosm, for the coherence of the laws of human

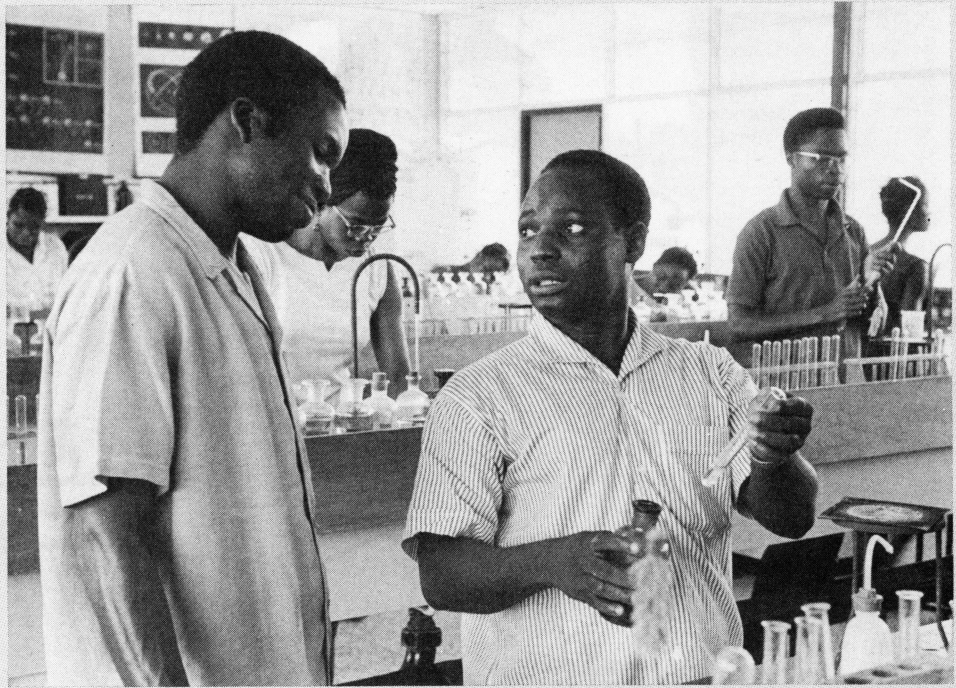
Ethiopian refugees, Somalia, 1981.



UNHCR/J. Jessen-Petersen

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Federal Advanced Teachers’ College, Lagos, Nigeria.

United Nations YN/AB

reason and the physical universe.

This, which differentiates man from all other created species, is his creative Reason, his identity as *imago viva Dei*, as in the living image of God, and therefore his ability to imitate the most noble aspect of God, the Creator.

It is precisely *not* the possession of raw materials or the right to extract usury which is the source of wealth in society, as the monetarist theory of Adam Smith claims, nor is it some ominous “social forces,” as Communism insists. The *only* source of wealth in society is rather the creative capacities of man.

Is it therefore not in the highest self-interest of the state to develop all the creative potentials of its citizens? A true definition of human rights is therefore not only the inalienable right of a person to life, food, housing, and so forth, but it is the inalienable right to develop all the creative potentials embedded within the individual, and this not as a limited self-interest, but because only in this way can the individual contribute in the maximal way to the benefit of society and to the improvement of the generations to come.

It is therefore the identity of man as *imago viva Dei*, as in the living image of God, which is the key to everything. It is the key to overcoming the economic crisis; it is the key to overcoming moral sins; and it is the key to peace and cooperation among religions as well as nations.

If society fosters the creative spark in its citizens, with

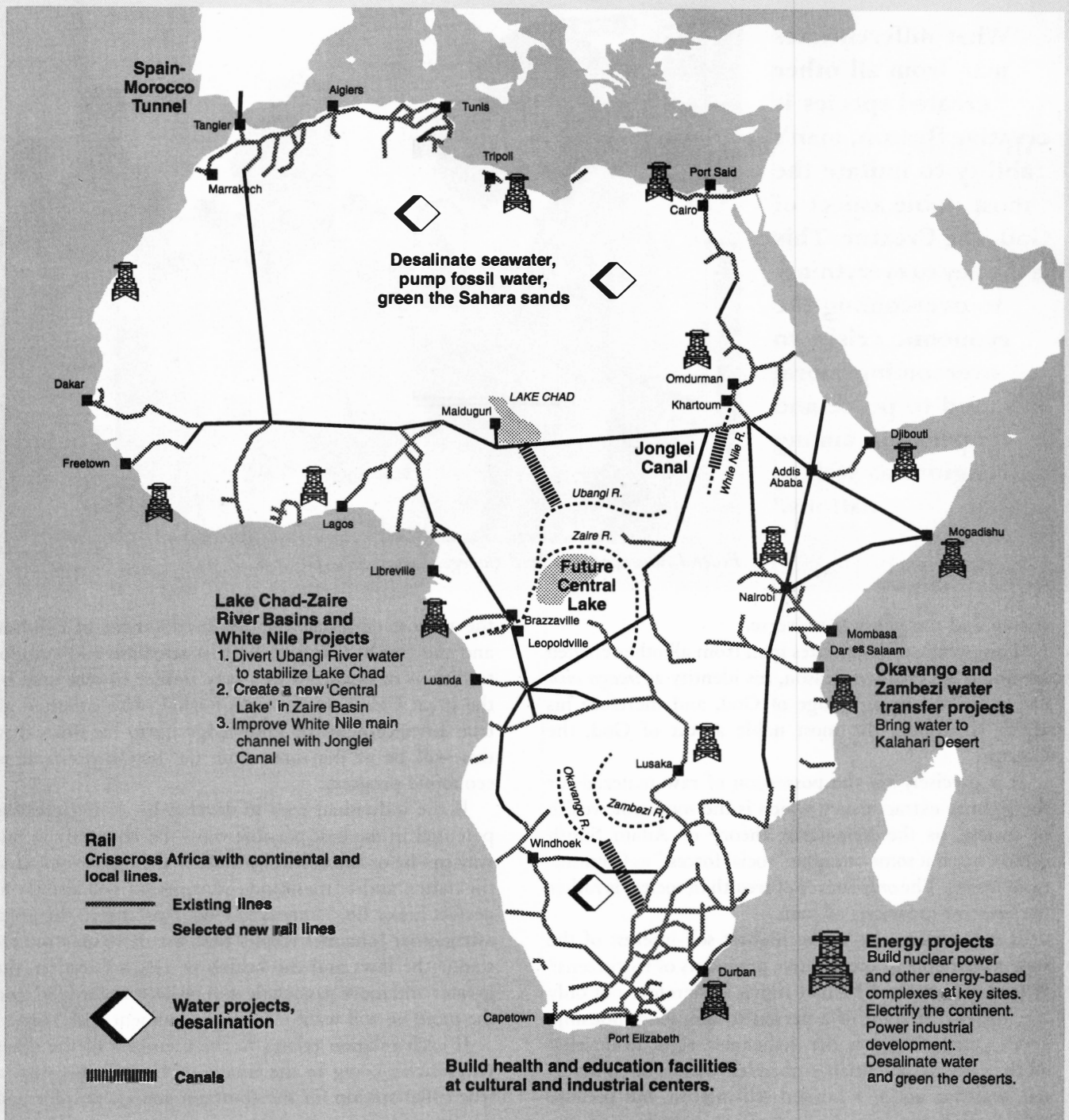
the utmost emphasis on the development of children and the youth, utilizing the best scientific and cultural traditions of mankind in a way similar to that used by the great Caliph Haroun Al Rashid, who collected all true advancements of knowledge up to his time, then this will be at the same time the best investment in economic progress.

If the individual tries to develop his or her creative potential in the best possible way—because only in this way can he or she best contribute to the improvement of the nation and/or mankind—this person will also try to perfect his or her likeness to God. And it is as the great astronomer Johannes Kepler said, the more man understands the laws and the beauty of God’s Creation, the greater and more passionate will be his love for God, and the more he will want to live in atonement with Him.

If each religion relates to the members of the other religions as being in the image of God in this way, a true collaboration for the common good is possible and the basis for peace is given.

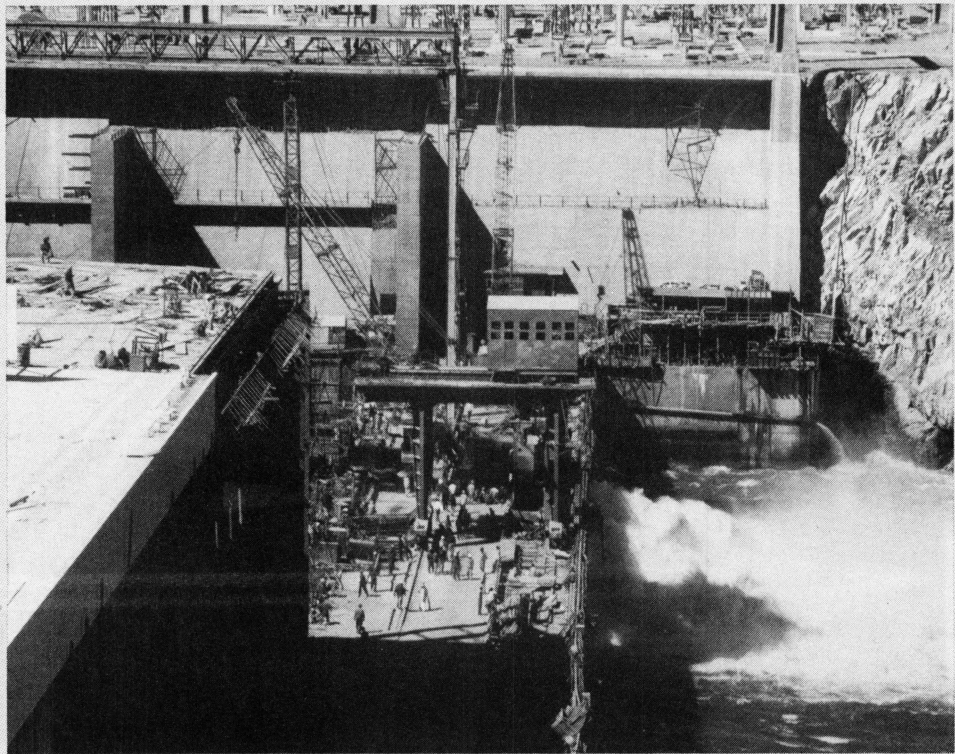
In the same way, peace at large is only possible in the world today if the political and economic order is brought into coherence with natural law. Concordance, peace in the Macrocosm, is only possible through the maximum development of all Microcosms. Only if a nation respects the maximal development of its neighbors as its fundamental self-interest, and *vice versa*, can there be peace.

This is not a utopian idea, it is the only practical way



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'All that is required is the mobilization of the political will of the decent forces around the world, working together for the needed global change. So let us do what we are called upon to do!'



Construction of Aswan High Dam, Egypt, 1968.

United Nations FAO P. Pittet (4572)

to get out of the gigantic crisis which is facing us today. It is *agapē*, the love of God, the love of mankind, and the love of your neighbor. It means concretely that the "structures of sin" have to be overcome and replaced by a Just New Economic Order coherent with the encyclical *Populorum Progressio (On the Development of Peoples)* of Pope Paul VI, and such a Just New World Economic Order must be centered on the image of each individual on this planet as *imago viva Dei*.

The concrete development plans for this great union *do* exist for Africa. My husband, the American economist Lyndon LaRouche, currently a political prisoner of the Anglo-American establishment, had already in 1974 commissioned and worked on a study, predicting that if the then-existing I.M.F. policies toward Africa were continued, they would lead inevitably to a biological holocaust, since it is not possible to lower the living standard and therefore weaken the immune system of an entire continent, without encouraging the emergence of epidemics. He could not have known about AIDS then, but the prediction was correct.

At the same time, he proposed an economic development plan for the entire African continent, starting with the absolutely necessary infrastructure, ports, waterways, roads, a railway network from South to North and from Dakar to Djibouti, but also irrigation systems on a large scale, desalination, energy production, and communica-

tion as absolutely necessary preconditions for the development of agriculture and industry.

If there had been an annual investment into this continental program of only fifty billion dollars, which is less than the cost of the destructive Gulf War, and if this had been maintained over the past twenty years, then Africa today would be on the road to prosperity and in many parts a blooming garden, and now, with two generations having had access to general education, development could really take off.

For Ibero-America, similar programs exist; for Asia; and for practically every part of the world. All that is required is the mobilization of the political will of the decent forces around the world, working together for the needed global change. What the world most urgently needs in order for mankind to survive, is a global reconstruction program to overcome the presently dramatically worsening situation.

If we do what we have to do, then this Dialogue will give hope to the world, and later in history people will say, "It was in Khartoum, in the heart of Africa, that people united in the name of God, and they took the fate of those who were downtrodden and laid it on their shoulders. And it was from this conference that a struggle was waged which turned mankind away from the abyss and helped overcome oligarchism." So let us do what we are called upon to do!