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Unless Third World Nations' Demographic Growth Curbed, Drastic Consequences In Store For "industrialized" Nations

by John Neagle

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According to the conclusions of a report by a group of US demographers on global population trends appearing in the Jan. 16 edition of the Christian Science Monitor, population growth in the Third World will require the creation of 700 million new jobs by the year 2010. The demographers pointed out that this number is equal to the total number of existing jobs in all "industrialized" nations." Explosive population growth will create tremendous pressure by immigrants wishing to enter the US, particularly from Latin America and Asia. This "uncontrolled" growth situation was described as a "silent crisis." The global population, currently at about 5.3 billion, increases at a rate of approximately 250,000 persons per day. The highest growth rates occur in Third World metropolises. The demographers warned that unless Japan, Western Europe and the US increase participation in the Third World, the population crisis will have a "dramatic" impact on the industrialized nations. The study indicated that developing nations must create approximately 35 million new jobs every year, an alarming statistic, given that even in the best years of economic expansion in the US, the number of jobs created per year has varied between two and three million. Among other things, the demographers recommend that wealthy nations substitute economic aid for military aid to the Third World. At present, Washington spends about \$13.6 billion per year on military aid to developing nations. The study also recommends substantial increases in family planning assistance to developing nations. The US currently spends about \$240 million for this purpose.

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