

# The Shadow Economy

## *How Global Government Affects American Farmers*



### *Joan Veon*

*Joan Veon is a journalist with a beat all her own. Her upscale task is to deliver to Americans the sad truth about what has happened and is happening to the Constitution, the oligarchs in waiting, and the scope of the one-world plan.*

*In her determination to understand the global level and what it really means for Americans, Veon has covered over 63 UN and UN-related conferences, which include economic, political, environmental, military, peace-keeping, legal, trade and financial topics. She is credentialed through the USA Radio Network in Dallas, Texas, and she has*

*interviewed presidents and prime ministers, key UN/IMF/World Bank officials, Bank for International Settlement officials, Bank of England officials, high officials throughout the Clinton and Bush Administrations, multinational/transnational CEOs, and many others to understand the global agenda and how it relates to life at the local level.*

*Veon writes a quarterly economic newsletter which has become more global in its analysis in an effort to identify and name key economic players and trends and how they are affecting our pocketbooks. Her non-profit organization, The Women's International Media Group has 501(c)(3) status in the State of Maryland. Veon has also written two books, Prince Charles: The Sustainable Prince and The United Nations' Global Straitjacket. The latter, a "handbook on world government," explains the political structure of the United Nations, discusses the coming global stock exchange and the International Criminal Court, and gives a call to "stand in the gap."*

*Veon is currently working on her third book, which will deal with global economics and finance.*

**ACRES U.S.A.** There seems to be a serious disconnect between what we profess and what we actually do as the United States. It all has to do with G7, G8, the United Nations and the World Trade Organization, but everyone seems to have a great deal of trouble unscrambling their connection with the world-backed bank and the International Monetary Fund. Could you unscramble this inventory of "characters" for us?

**JOAN VEON.** A little bit. I have been covering global meetings for the past 10 years. To date, I have covered 66 global meetings around the world, on every continent except Asia. I just returned from covering the IMF World Bank meeting in Washington, D.C., where the big boys have started the process of implementing global taxes. They are now testing the idea, and they are going to start with a \$1-per-ticket tax on international airline tickets.

**ACRES U.S.A.** Who is this tax going to feed?

**VEON.** The United Nations.

**ACRES U.S.A.** Not the G8?

**VEON.** That's the big mystery. I did ask a question about all the different kinds of taxation they are thinking about — including debt relief and increasing overseas development assistance — so I asked them, given the amount of tax that they want to levy, are they going to put in place an organization that will monitor exactly where this money goes? Of course they did not answer my question. What I have seen, as I have covered these 66 meetings, is that since 1944, when the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank were established, they have systematically torn the various barriers down between the nation states.

**ACRES U.S.A.** For whose benefit?

**VEON.** For *their* benefit, of course!

**ACRES U.S.A.** The benefit of the international corporations with American addresses?

**VEON.** It has been, I believe, for American corporations as well as foreign multinational corporations, along with the people who are in the inner circle of the power players and the movers and shakers.

**ACRES U.S.A.** Who *are* the power players and movers and shakers?

**VEON.** That's a good question! Everybody has their own opinion. I realize that there will be those who will say,

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“Lady, you don’t have it right” — but based on 10 years of research, my opinion is that the power players are, first of all, the leading royal family of the world, the British Royal Family, along with old, powerful, rich families such as the Rothschilds and the Rockefellers. I’m sure there are many other such families.

**ACRES U.S.A.** Ferdinand Lundberg wrote a book called *America’s Sixty Families* and then later on he wrote one called *The Rich and the Super Rich* and he seemed to identify some of the same people you’re hinting at.

**VEON.** I don’t believe that there is currently any president or prime minister or ruler of any country who rules just because he happened to get elected. I truly believe that they are all puppets, and as long as they insure that the laws and the regulations conform with world government and/or international laws, then they stay in power. I don’t believe that we live in a world any longer with individual rulers that rule their own country sovereignly. Those days are gone. We are in a world without borders, a world governmental system, in which there is a power elite that I basically call “the global Mafia.”

**ACRES U.S.A.** In other words, we’ve moved beyond the circumstances alluded to in Rothschild’s famous statement, “Give me control of a nation’s money and I care not who makes its laws” — now they have moved into making the laws, as well?

**VEON.** Absolutely — in addition to making all the money.

**ACRES U.S.A.** This leads us straight into World Trade Organization and the Codex Alimentarius, which, if they don’t approve it, then it’s disapproved.

**VEON.** Yes. When I first started covering global conferences, I realized that as an American, I was very naive, uneducated and uninformed about communism, socialism, fascism, Fabian socialism or Marxism. And I was thus at a disadvantage. I have had to study the “isms” in order to get hold of truth. There is no doubt in my mind that the people who rule the world, the leaders that I see, whether it’s at the IMF World Bank, the World Economic Forum, the G7 Finance Ministers or the Group of Eight heads of state, that it’s all a show, that it’s already been agreed to. It’s a done deal. All they are doing is calling together a meeting to

basically signal to the people of the world that this is where they are going. What or who is the *ism* behind it? I believe it’s communism and that the modus operandi is Fabian socialism. Fabian socialism adheres to all of the components of communism, except that instead of taking over a country overnight, the Fabians say, let us do it slowly, let us change how they think, let us change their laws, let us change the rules. That’s what we are seeing — Fabian socialism at every turn, and one of the key components of communism and world government which the Fabian socialists agree to is free trade. You cannot have a world governmental without “free trade.” Now who is it “free” for? It’s certainly not free for you and me, when we are losing jobs and our manufacturing capability. If we had some kind of major catastrophic war, we would never, ever again be in the position we had during World War II because we’ve transferred it all overseas, primarily to the Chinese.

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“Since 1944, when the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank were established, they have systematically torn the various barriers down between the nation states.”

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**ACRES U.S.A.** Well, let’s explore further what we started to talk about here — the G8. Is there any evidence the G8 will eventually overtake and set aside the United Nations?

**VEON.** I have written about that on a number of occasions because basically what we have with the Group of Eight is that they have four of the permanent members of the Security Council. The only member they don’t have is China. There are steps to broaden the Group of Eight and there’s now an organization

called the G20, which includes not only the G8, but also many of the emerging developing countries such as China, India, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand and a number of other developing countries. As such, you have in the G20 all five members of the Security Council, which means, why do you need the United Nations? Of course, I raised this question at the G8, and they laughed. What you have with the United Nations is really a major secretariat. When you look at the UN structure, you have many organizations, many commissions, many councils. When you go to their website, it is an absolute maze. When you start taking a look at what the General Assembly has done and the laws that they have passed, all of them comprise international law. That’s changing the whole structure of the world.

**ACRES U.S.A.** Like taking over the ocean floor? Taking title by declaration?

**VEON.** Yes, absolutely. Over the past 10 years, I have been an eyewitness to a lot of the UN creep that we’ve seen. I remember being in a meeting in which somebody suggested that there was a territory called the Global Commons, so I raised my hand and asked what that term meant. They answered, “That comprises the oceans and the seas that are a certain distance out from the territory of a country, it is all of the surface of the oceans that is not governed by anyone.” It also has to do with the atmosphere and space and outer space, and I was dumbfounded. When Christopher Columbus came to the new world, he planted the flag of Spain, but nobody has ever laid claim to the oceans and the skies and outer space and the seas except the United Nations. I think that’s incredible. The United States is one of the few countries not to pass the Law of the Sea Treaty, which would set in place a whole new UN structure over the oceans and the seas and allow the United Nations to make money by charging fees to anyone who wants to mine the ocean.

**ACRES U.S.A.** Or travel across it, for that matter.

**VEON.** Or travel across it — you’re right! I mean, this is mind boggling. It’s incredible. It’s — if I can use the word — demonic.

**ACRES U.S.A.** The point of it all is that a cadre of insiders literally control the entire world now.

**VEON.** Absolutely.

**ACRES U.S.A.** And they are the ones that signal when we are to fall in line and put a gun on our shoulders and fight it out with somebody.

**VEON.** Absolutely. And you know, they don't have to fight it out with a gun. As you know, they can fight it out through the value of a country's currency.

**ACRES U.S.A.** Of course.

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**VEON.** I did a tremendous amount of research on the Asian crises, and my research shows there were five Asian countries that would not agree to the World Trade Organization Financial Services Agreement, because then they would lose economic sovereignty over their banks, their insurance companies and their stock market. In retaliation, the currencies of Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Korea and Japan were crashed.

**ACRES U.S.A.** We've speculated in *Acres U.S.A.* that there was indeed a weapon of mass destruction in Iraq — it was called the Euro, because Iraq had gone to the Euro rather than the dollar.

**VEON.** I didn't know that. I knew that there were a number of oil companies that were looking to switch from the dollar to the Euro. I did not know that Iraq had done so, but I don't doubt it. What is so sad today is that the government of America is corrupt, and it doesn't make any difference whether it's Republican or Democrat because there is no difference philosophically.

**ACRES U.S.A.** That's true — you've only got maybe 30 or 40 people in Congress who will ever vote correctly on any of this.

**VEON.** Right. Let me give you some research that I have finally put together. I was aware only of the name of this docu-

ment 10 years ago. It's called *National Security Study Memorandum 200*. Now, my first global conference was a United Nations' conference on population and development and the whole goal at that meeting was to reduce the population of the world.

**ACRES U.S.A.** By how much?

**VEON.** They did not give us a percentage at that meeting, but at a subsequent meeting, the first Gorbachev State of the World Forum, there was a speaker who said that the population had to be reduced by two-thirds.

**ACRES U.S.A.** How's that going to be done?

**VEON.** They're going to do it through AIDS, disease, starvation, euthanasia, the right to die with dignity. For the most part that's how they're going to do it. But then when you look at Agenda 21, which was foisted on the American people at the Real Earth Summit in 1992, what it does is go through all the process of creation as described in Genesis — the Earth, the people, the food, the stars — it goes through every phase and takes control of each one.

**ACRES U.S.A.** But let's get back to this security study you mentioned.

**VEON.** The *NSSM 200* — it was originally recommended by Henry Kissinger, and Nixon first signed an agreement in 1970 for this concept to be studied — it was called *Implications of Worldwide Population Growth for U.S. Security and Overseas Interests*. In 1974 the study was completed, and it was sent to Nixon along with a memo by Kissinger, who was then the National Security Advisor, in which he recommends the need for the United States to provide leadership in world population matters. The bottom line to this whole study is that the United States looked around the world and determined that they needed to find a way to control and take over countries where there were strategic and critical materials that we would need for future economic and military growth here.

**ACRES U.S.A.** Back to the thesis we propose in *Unforgiven*, in other words: the capture of the raw materials of the Earth.

**VEON.** Absolutely.

**ACRES U.S.A.** Which they used to teach at West Point in a textbook called *Raw Materials in War and Peace*.

**VEON.** Oh wow, I want that one! That's wonderful, because that's exactly what *NSSM200* is — they basically identified key developing countries that had the strategic minerals we needed. They noted that these countries had large populations, and if the populations got larger and these countries developed, then *they* would need those resources. Therefore, the bottom line was to insure that these countries never developed and that they reduced their populations and kept them low so that the United States could take advantage of their mineral resources.

**ACRES U.S.A.** If these countries are continually looted by our International Monetary Fund and World Bank, then we have this scenario where we're going to forgive a certain amount of debt. Does that mean they're so far down that they can't even function, and we have to be able to forgive the debt that we have around their neck?

**VEON.** That's a conundrum, because the bottom line is that the major countries have kept these countries perpetually poor. You need the perpetual poor for a number of reasons, and one of them is so that you can do a transfer of wealth from the wealthy countries to — supposedly — the poor countries. They are trying to accomplish this through the 2000 United Nations Millennium Development Goal.

**ACRES U.S.A.** But who *actually* gets that wealth when it's transferred?

**VEON.** You and I will probably never know the real truth, will we? The bottom line is that all of this, in my opinion, appears to be a major skim off the top. I mean, there's major skimming going on whether it's the stock market, whether it's “free trade,” no matter what it is, with no rules, no regulations. The fact that there are no barriers and boundaries between the nation states, we now have a global Mafia that can just go plundering to and fro over the earth, whether it's currency, oil, diamonds, commodities or the mineral resources of a country. The power is much greater, and remember, nobody went after Edi Amin. Nobody ever made

that government accountable, and yet we pour money into it. So the question is, who's really getting the money? It's the same for all the other highly indebted poor countries. Did the World Bank have a part and parcel of that? Yes. Robert McNamara, for example, where did he go after serving under Nixon? He went to the World Bank.

**ACRES U.S.A.** After the disaster in Vietnam he went to the World Bank.

**VEON.** Where he was instrumental in creating the mess that the highly indebted poor countries are in. None of the projects that the World Bank forced the Third World countries to develop ever turned out. They all became white elephant loans, and the loans are now on the backs of these Third World countries.

**ACRES U.S.A.** They've effectively mortgaged all the rain forests and everything else in the world.

**VEON.** That's right. At one of the meetings of the IMF World Bank I attended, they were talking about debt relief, and I asked them to explain the mechanics of it — "Are you talking 100 percent debt relief, partial debt relief? Will there be a debt-for-equity swap? What will happen? Exactly what are the mechanics?" Well, they wouldn't touch the topic of debt-for-equity swaps, which is a very common practice that has been done with other projects. When you start researching these projects, you can't help but see the raping, the robbing, and the pillaging of the people of the Earth, and that includes America.

**ACRES U.S.A.** The idea is obviously is to set up and oligarchy around the world. If you want an example, just look at Guatemala and then extrapolate and take it to the rest of the world. Then you've got the idea.

**VEON.** Absolutely. And unfortunately, most Americans are out to lunch. They don't want to believe it. They are too busy enjoying life. They think people like you and I are crackpots. You know, it's very, very sad to see America, one of the greatest countries of the world, going the way that we are going.

**ACRES U.S.A.** Returning to the World Trade Organization, we read in the papers about fines levied against the United States by some corporation in Canada or Mexico because of some transgression, usually protecting the American environment or the American border or American

money. Who are the people that make that judgement?

**VEON.** That's a great question. As you know, the WTO has its own court.

**ACRES U.S.A.** But who are the judges?

**VEON.** Who are they? They're really nobody. They're international representatives appointed from all the countries of the world that sit on the court. They're not elected and they're not really anyone to whom we should even be giving such authority. We should be rejecting it instead of adhering to it because every time we make a compromise or a settlement, we are creating international law and we are setting precedent.

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**ACRES U.S.A.** But our Congress has ratified this.

**VEON.** That's right. And they ratified, as you know, a 27,000-page document without ever reading it.

**ACRES U.S.A.** They've admitted that they don't read much of anything they ratify, for that matter.

**VEON.** Oh, yeah — we are being had. We are being run in America by a kind of global Mafia. While we're at it, let me throw in something else. I did some research on the

British Commonwealth, and I found that it has 54 countries, which means they have the potential of 54 votes in the United Nations. They also operate at every level internationally. In the G8, the Commonwealth has two votes. America has one. In the G7 finance ministers, the Commonwealth has two votes — for Canada and the U.K. — while the United States has one. In the International Monetary Fund, there are 45 Commonwealth member countries. In the WTO, there are 46. In the World Bank, there are 44. In the G20 there are five Commonwealth members, with the potential of five votes to America's one. And in our hemisphere, with the Free Trade Area of the Americas, they have 13 votes to our one. Furthermore, every time the United Nations, the WTO, the World Bank forms a committee, they rotate the presidency. So, for example, if there are four Commonwealth countries that are part of a committee, then Britain has the presidency 25 percent of the time. This is occurring throughout all of the hundreds of committees, agencies and organizations in the whole UN system.

**ACRES U.S.A.** So when we vote for a President of the United States, we're mostly being given that opportunity to humor us?

**VEON.** Absolutely. It's called democracy.

**ACRES U.S.A.** The candidates we get to vote for have already been determined before we have primaries or anything else?

**VEON.** Absolutely. No doubt. Bill Clinton was undoubtedly being groomed back when he was a Rhodes Scholar. And the rest of them. Just like a corporation would groom someone to become president by earmarking an individual 15 or 20 years earlier and then coaching him all the way up as he becomes vice president, senior vice president and then CEO.

**ACRES U.S.A.** And if these people that are groomed get out of line and can't be controlled in any other way, they call in the jackals?

**VEON.** Yes. Yes.

**ACRES U.S.A.** Which has happened to some foreign leaders in recent history. But let's consider funding for these organizations. We know where the International Monetary Fund got its money when the paper profit was made on the remonetiza-

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tion of gold, but where does the money come from for the World Bank?

**VEON.** It appears to come not only from SDRs — Special Drawing Rights — but it also comes from member contributions, member dues.

**ACRES U.S.A.** Who's bankrolling most of it, though?

**VEON.** Let me explain one of the facilities of the World Bank. The World Bank set up stock exchanges in all of the developing countries of the world. Now, in order to go in and set up a stock exchange in a developing country that has nothing, they had to privatize many of the state-owned industries in order to float stock on the exchange. Then, to "help" the country in question, the World Bank holds 25 percent of all the stock they've made public to prime trading on that stock exchange. So, how much money does the World Bank have? They have a heck of a lot when you take a look at the fact that they've gone around the world and set up all these stock exchanges and have bought a large chunk of each.

**ACRES U.S.A.** Are you suggesting that with a little seed money they were able to expropriate the rest of it?

**VEON.** Yes, I am. That's exactly right.

**ACRES U.S.A.** OK — we have the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund. We know how they're going around the world looting Third World countries under the guise of helping them. Then we have the G8, which is another ancillary organization supporting the UN?

**VEON.** Yes. It used to be the G7, but they added Russia in 1999 for political reasons. Russia is now a full member with the exception of economics, that's why it's still the G7 for economic summits. The G8 are the leading countries of the world, the leading powerhouses of the world. My understanding of the G8 from my first meeting, and it hasn't changed, was that the G8 was basically saying to all the other countries of the world — this is where we're going, and if you're smart you will follow us.

**ACRES U.S.A.** How does the World Trade Organization relate to the G8?

**VEON.** The G8 also operates within the WTO, since all G8 countries are members of the WTO, which is concerned with trade.

**ACRES U.S.A.** And the ones that benefit from the trade are the ones big enough to trade on a global level. It's not going to affect the average citizen, except on the expropriation end of it.

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"The farmers have not figured out that they have been on the front line of the entire battle that you and I are discussing, because it has to do with land, it has to do with freedom, it has to do with producing food."

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**VEON.** That's right. We are. The organization that I think is above all of the groups that we've just talked about, however — the UN, the WTO, the IMB, the World Bank, and there are many others — is the Bank for International Settlements. For us to understand what is happening now, we must begin at the point where America lost her economic sovereignty — with the passage of the Federal Reserve Act in 1913. From that point, we have a private corporation in charge of our monetary system, and if they want to crash our economy they can do it simply by taking money out of the system. Or if they want to create a boom in the stock market, they can do that by adding money to the system.

**ACRES U.S.A.** But aren't they going to run into the realization that mathematical ambition and physical possibility have parted company in this system? You can double and redouble hummingbirds or bacteria or money to a certain extent, but the day must come when this runs into the wall of physical possibility.

**VEON.** That's exactly what I call "PacMan capitalism" — capitalism needs always to have a new product, a new gimmick, a new buyer and a new market. If it doesn't, it runs into trouble. So capitalism

is an *ism*, just like Marxism, Socialism, Communism and Fabian Socialism. These boys have been busy printing money like its toilet paper since the early 1970s, about the time that America went off the gold standard. Back then, you could buy a decent house for \$30,000. Now . . .

**ACRES U.S.A.** When *Acres U.S.A.* went into business in 1971, we could buy a top-of-the-line Chevrolet car for \$3,000. So just put it in perspective.

**VEON.** That's right. Now all of the central banks of the world meet at the Bank for International Settlements in Basel, Switzerland. There is not one country — with the possible exception of a couple of the Muslim countries — that does not have a federal reserve or a central bank, a private organization controlling it, and all these banks meet in Basel. Would you believe that I am the only American flying over for their annual meeting on a yearly basis?

**ACRES U.S.A.** What have you found out?

**VEON.** The current managing director has his Master's and Ph.D. from the London School of Economics, which is a Fabian Socialist creation. I've interviewed the chief economist on a yearly basis for the last seven years. His name is Bill White. I think he himself is a very honest man. I don't think he understands everything that he's a part of. I think he writes a tremendous economic report. However, they control the monetary system of the world, and that should say it all. Furthermore, several years ago the Bank for International Settlements set up a new organization called the Financial Stability Forum designed to help protect the international economic infrastructure. From what I can tell from a number of interviews with the man who oversees it, this forum is basically the globalization of the U.S. Treasury, the Federal Reserve, the Comptroller of the Currency, the FDIC, along with all of the other central banks and all of the other key organizations. There are six international financial institutions, seven regulatory and supervisory groupings, which would include the FDIC and the comptroller of the currency and the European central bank, which now have the power to control the international monetary system.

**ACRES U.S.A.** Then what you're describing is a very complex world with a lot of disparity in it, and that disparity is soon to be visited on the United States,

probably reducing its standard of living by 50 percent, maybe more. Is that correct?

**VEON.** That is absolutely correct. That's where we're going.

**ACRES U.S.A.** And these people we have in Congress are confronted with this "either get in line or we'll take you down — but if you get in line, you'll have a nice comfortable living and a nice golden parachute." Is that what I'm seeing?

**VEON.** Yes. You know, when I first started understanding this system, I was naive enough to think that if I went to Congress and told them what I was seeing and what I knew, that they would listen to me. For the first three to five years that I was covering global meetings, I would make the rounds twice a year and I would give documents and information to the key legislative aids of the key conservative congressmen and senators. And you know what? Those legislative aids didn't understand and did not *want* to understand. When I told a key legislative aid who worked for Jesse Helms, whom I knew personally, what I had learned about world government from my first UN conference and showed him a packet of information so he could not miss the connections, this guy told me, "You know what, Joan, if you come up here and show these people this, they're going to put you in a box and call you a radical right-winger and they'll never listen to you." I said, "Where they put me doesn't matter because this is truth, and I can document it." And he told me it didn't make any difference.

**ACRES U.S.A.** That is why all of these farm organizations out here asking for a structured agriculture and a structured economy make no difference. It's all been put in the box.

**VEON.** I was given the opportunity to talk to the Washington Wheat Growers Association about seven years ago, and I had a two-hour workshop planned. I could only speak to them for one hour, though, after they started looking at me like they were watching a horror movie. The farmers have not figured out that they have been on the front line of the entire battle that you and I are discussing, because it has to do with land, it has to do with freedom, it has to do with producing food — the production you describe in your books — it has to do with all of this. This is at the heart of freedom. And the farmers have been lied to, they have been deceived, they have been sold a bill of goods to help sup-

port free trade and the whole agenda that we've been talking about.

**ACRES U.S.A.** You've been covering this for 10 years, and you produce a newsletter.

**VEON.** Two of them. I write an economic newsletter that helps people understand what's happening to our money and the global economic trend. That newsletter is a quarterly. I also write a bimonthly newsletter on the United Nations and the conferences that I go to explaining what has happened and what it means to you and I. I have a website at <[www.womensgroup.org](http://www.womensgroup.org)>. You don't read the stuff that I put out anywhere in the newspapers, and you don't hear about it on ABC, NBC or CBS.

**ACRES U.S.A.** Well, the American people have the power in their hands if they have the wit to use it. But they're not going to display that wit by lining up every four years and selecting one of the two candidates that have been choreographed into that position.

**VEON.** That's right. America is no longer the America they remember from their schooldays. Our kids are being taught about sustainable development. They're being taught about the World Trade Organization, and they now have International Relations in schools. At every turn you have kids saying, "I'm going to Italy to study this summer as part of my International Relations course." They really don't understand what is happening.

**ACRES U.S.A.** You were recently at the G8 Summit in Scotland, right?

**VEON.** That's right.

**ACRES U.S.A.** It's been six years since they set up the Euro, and now the French have kind of shot a bullet into the thing. Did the summit provide any insight?

**VEON.** It's a really hard question. I think the Euro will survive because of the very powerful forces behind the scenes that have nothing to do with what the people want. I think in light of the fact that the Chinese renminbi is now floating against the dollar, then the Chinese could sell the dollar and put more money in the Euro. Given a floating system of exchange in which the world has been divided up into free trade zones, I think that the Euro will survive, not because it's popular, but, again, because there is a larger agenda

behind floating currency and the free trade zones.

**ACRES U.S.A.** What was that meeting in Scotland all about?

**VEON.** The Group of Eight meeting in Scotland was the 31st meeting of the G8 leaders, which include the United States, Canada, Germany, Japan, Italy, France, Great Britain and Russia. The G8 has been expanding their power base ever since 1975, when they came together as a result of Nixon taking the dollar off of gold and the resultant new currency system, which is one of floating currency. From that time they have expanded their agenda to almost every area — politically, economically, socially, environmentally. The G8 meeting this year was extremely historic for a number of reasons. First of all, the Queen invited the G8 leaders to dinner. There have been four G8 meetings in Britain, but this was the first time the Queen ever invited the leaders to dinner. I asked Tony Blair what the Queen told the G8 leaders, and he was visibly surprised by my question. His reply was that he could not tell me what the Queen told them. That begs the question — who has the real power? Is it the G8 leaders, or is it the Queen? Another historic component of this summit concerns a global tax, which has been contemplated for a number of years now. I started covering global meetings in 1995 because of this very idea. I have traced and followed the idea of a global tax since that time, when it was informally suggested at a UN conference. Last year at the meeting in Sea Island, Georgia, French President Jacques Chirac put a global tax on the table. He called it a tax for the poor. When I questioned him about what kind of shape it would take, he said that they were doing a study that would be more fair and equitable for all countries and all peoples paying the tax. His study is now complete. In January at the World Economic Forum, Chirac again put global taxation on the table. That idea was very positively received by the world leaders and the CEOs in attendance. Chirac presented what he called an International Solidarity Levee, which would be anywhere from a \$1 up to a \$10 tax on airline tickets. There are 3 billion airline tickets sold per year, so it would raise anywhere from \$3 billion to \$30 billion a year, supposedly to help countries feed the poor.

**ACRES U.S.A.** In other words, after they go into these African countries and screw them over good and proper and impover-

ish them, now they're going to give them a little handout?

**VEON.** I think that "little handout" will never make it to the African countries. I think this is a marvelous, ingenious diabolical way of skimming off the top and making it look legal.

**ACRES U.S.A.** They would pick on the one industry that hasn't made a profit since Lindberg crossed the Atlantic?

**VEON.** Isn't that interesting? I asked President Chirac, if this tax were to be enacted, would there be more types of international solidarity levees, and he told me that they had *many* other global taxes planned. So this novel idea that has the agreement of the G8 leaders now goes to the United Nations for the General Assembly meeting in the fall. I am assuming they will go to a number of hand-picked countries which will get it passed by their parliaments with great accolade. Once they have put this tax in place, and they've worked out all of the bugs, it will be pushed globally for all countries.

**ACRES U.S.A.** But this money is basically going to be used to run the G8?

**VEON.** No, this money is supposedly going to be used to help the UN meet their Millennium Development Goals. It's very, very important that people understand this. The Millennium Development Goals were established in 2000 by the UN, and they include reducing poverty by 50 percent, reducing hunger by 50 percent, giving people around the world clean water and sanitation, giving every child basic education, alleviating HIV/AIDS by 50 percent, and improving the lives of 200 million slum dwellers around the world. The UN estimates this will cost \$50 billion a year. To see how ludicrous that is — the UN's entire 1994 budget was only \$10.5 billion. Nevertheless, these monies are now going to solve all the problems of the world — except the problems of greed, deceit, deception and distortion. So that's the justification for the global tax. I find it absolutely fascinating that they have, you know, created the poor through corrupt economic policies. In order to have a global tax you must have a really good reason. Interestingly enough, between 1958 and 1989 Britain decolonized 42 countries, many of them in Africa, and if you look for the most highly indebted, poor and problematic countries in the world, you will find them in Africa. Africa is replete with gold, diamonds, precious minerals, raw materials of all kinds. One-third of the

highly indebted poor countries are Commonwealth countries, and this is based on creating the perpetual poor that the world now needs to justify a global tax. So this meeting was historic for that reason, and connected with that reason is another historic first — rock stars were allowed into the center where the G8 leaders were meeting — a place where nobody else could get in, other than the Queen — but Bob Geldorf and Bono had individual meetings with each of the world leaders about Africa. Not only that, as a result of the very violent protests at the G8 meetings several years ago in Genoa, the non-governmental organizations are now allowed into the press center, where they have their own space. I should have counted the tables, but I can tell you it was over a dozen, and they were allowed to hand out press briefings throughout the day — they held more press briefings than the world leaders did.

**ACRES U.S.A.** What about the people in the street? Where were they kept? A block away or a mile away?

**VEON.** Well first of all, Gleneagles is one and a half hours away from Edinburgh, and the most violent protest took place in London and Edinburgh, so there was the policing — the security was extremely tight. They had the area around Gleneagles blocked off for miles. There were many check points.

**ACRES U.S.A.** Kind of like trying to get within a mile or two of President Bush's home.

**VEON.** There were protesters that did breach; they walked miles. I heard one protester say he walked seven miles in order to be able to breach security, so there were pockets of activism inside of these check zones around Gleneagles.

**ACRES U.S.A.** But it was pretty thin.

**VEON.** Yes. I had one of the most complete, comprehensive friskings that I've ever had at Gleneagles. Also, for the first time ever, after I submitted my online registration, I got an e-mail from the police department that has jurisdiction over the Gleneagles area, stating that they were doing a security check on me. Then about a week before the summit, I received another e-mail stating that I was cleared — by that time I'd already made all my reservations. I was quite taken aback by that because it's not like they even needed to do it.

**ACRES U.S.A.** They're just setting in motion the machinery for the day when they're going to deny you.

**VEON.** Either that or getting us ready for the final kill, meaning that there is no freedom remaining whatsoever. Oh, and then there were the London bombings. I almost forgot the bombings! I have noted over the years how, when one of these global meetings is scheduled, a week, a month, two months before that meeting, something astonishing happens somewhere in the world that just happens to coincide with part of the agenda they want to fulfill. This time it happened in the same country as the conference. The Queen hosted the dinner Wednesday evening, which was the opening of the G8 meeting. Thursday morning the bombings occurred, and — for the most part due to the coverage of the bombings — there was a complete blackout regarding what happened at the G8, meaning no reportage of the Queen having dinner with the G8 leaders. More important, Tony Blair had tried to get through, very evasively, PATRIOT One and Two legislation for Britain in March, and it did not fly. Also at the time of the bombings in London, our Congress was considering making the USA PATRIOT Act permanent. So you know, it all has a flow here.

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