Stephen Mumford's valiant exhumation of long-buried highest-level U.S. population policy documents—now presented in his new book, *The Life and Death of NSSM 200*—provides a unique revelation of the virulent anti-American machinations of the Roman Catholic Church during this half century, as it asserted papal infallibility and strove to aggrandize the Vatican Empire by denying poor people and nations access to effective means of fertility control.

The title of Mumford's book is drawn from White House shorthand standing for "National Security Study Memorandum." NSSM 200 was the definitive interagency study of world population growth and its implications for U.S. and global security, requested by President Nixon.

Dr. Mumford's book is a must-read for anyone interested in this country's survival and wellbeing, and in the global issues of religious zealotry and genocidal conflict, poverty and hunger, population and environment, war and peace. Many readers will be saddened, as I am, by what might have been:

- Had Paul VI, accepted the recommendation of the Papal Commission on Population and Birth Control in 1966 that the Church should change its position on birth control.
- Had President Nixon implemented the recommendations of the Rocke-
feller Commission in Population Growth and America’s Future in 1972; had he vetoed the Helms Amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act in 1973; and had he survived long enough in the Presidency to receive and implement the recommendations of the NSSM 200 study he commissioned in 1974.

- Had our presidential elections in ’76, ’80, ’84, and ’88 yielded presidents with outstanding population vision and courage, rather than a trio of Vatican sycophants—Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, and George Bush—all of whom pandered to the Vatican and the American Catholic bishops while degrading U.S. population leadership and programs for improved fertility control at home and abroad.

- Had John Paul I survived in the Vatican long enough to have implemented his vision and determination that the Roman Catholic Church should support birth control.

Indeed the human condition of this world would have been vastly improved during the last several decades had Vatican forces helped rather than hindered progress toward universal availability of the most effective and desired means of fertility control. Throughout this millennium, while growing forces of scientific inquiry and intellectual freedom struggled mightily to overcome the tenacious grasp of general ignorance and religious dogmatism to create an earthly Eden, the Roman Catholic Church remained the foremost obstacle to attainment of that goal as it strove for survival and aggrandizement of its medieval power. Since collapse of totalitarian communism, Vatican opposition to universal birth control and its corrosive manipulation of American democratic processes have posed the principal threat to the continued survival and wellbeing of this great nation.

At mid-century, Paul Blanshard, in American Democracy and Catholic Power, warned of the on-going danger to this republic posed by a foreign religious power in our midst asserting papal infallibility and seeking to exercise religious authority over this nation’s democratic institutions and governmental decisions. Now Mumford’s The Life and Death of NSSM 200 makes it ominously evident that what Blanshard warned could happen if this nation relaxed its vigilance, has happened! Furthermore, the principal deterrent to a possible takeover of this democracy by a fanatic adversarial power—a free and vigilant press—no longer exists with the requisite courage and strength to protect this country from the destructive machinations of the Vatican and its American minions. The inability of U.S. print and broadcast media to defend this nation against the palpably treasonous activities of the American Catholic bishops, as detailed in their November 20, 1975 Pastoral Plan for Pro-life Activities, is amply demonstrated by the heretofore virtual total lack of publication and condemnation of the many blatant anti-American activities documented in Mumford’s book.