

# Business Briefs

## European Agriculture

### German farmers protest EC price cuts

Twenty thousand enraged and desperate farmers from all over West Germany gathered in the Dortmund Westfalenhalle March 25 to protest the European Community's recent cuts in price supports for agricultural goods. Last year alone, 20,000 farmers—a rate of 60 per day—were forced to stop farming, and now the situation is worse.

But leaders of the German Farmers' Association (Bauernverband) failed to put forward the basic issue facing agriculture: the need for every nation's farmers to increase production to reverse the growing world food crisis.

The organization's president, Herr Heeremann, resorted to a demagogic speech after being booed by the audience. Heeremann's assertion that "if things are not changed very rapidly, the mood of the farmers may rapidly shift against our democracy and our parties," was met with frenetic applause from the usually docile farmers. He then attacked American agriculture for dumping cheap products on German markets.

Agriculture Minister Kiechle was greeted with hoots and whistles, then a load of manure was dumped in front of the podium while he was speaking, flanked with signs that threatened "French measures" would be taken if there were no government action. Signs recalling the Nazi slogans about German farmers and German oaks have already begun to appear at farmers' meetings.

## European Community

### 'Storm on the Channel: continent isolated'

That quip regarding British chauvinism was revived on March 30, after a last-minute ministerial effort by the European Community (EC) to narrow differences concerning the British budget contribution. It ended with worsened disagreements, the *Daily Telegraph's* front-page headline being "Britain

Refuses to Bail Out EEC." (The British still call the EC the European Economic Community.)

"Failing in its attempt to prevent the establishment of the EC, Britain joined in order to sabotage it and destroy it from the inside," as a French journalist put it. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher demanded a \$1 billion-plus cut in the U.K. budget contribution, and her partners bent over backwards to appease her, accepting a \$740 million rebate. Yet British Foreign Minister Geoffrey Howe announced that Britain would refuse to pay a scheduled \$160 million advance payment to the budget, hastening bankrupting the EC.

The British government is demonstratively studying ways of withholding all payments to the EC budget and "preparing for a war of attrition with its EEC partners," according to the *Financial Times*. Despite the undisputably disruptive role played by the British, French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson "firmly quashed suggestions that the EC could do without Britain." Gaullist opposition leader Jacques Chirac demanded that the United Kingdom be put "on holiday" from the Community. French President François Mitterrand "hinted at the end of the summit that the Nine might try to push ahead on their own," without Britain.

## Infrastructure

### Scranton, Pennsylvania suffers dysentery

Former Lehigh Valley coal center Scranton is now afflicted with an outbreak of dysentery caused by protozoa infesting the city's main water supply due to leaking of raw sewage (fecal contamination) into the city reservoir. The condition of the reservoir has developed over years, but the Environmental Protection Agency, fully aware of the situation, failed to take corrective action.

Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche's health adviser, John Grauerholz, M.D., addressed a meeting on the water crisis March 27, and also discussed the contamination crisis in the depressed former steel town of McKeesport, 250 miles to the west.

A water-management crisis faces much of the nation due to lack of investment in water infrastructure for over 25 years. Dr. Grauerholz asserted that "all civilization is the history of the increased ability to keep what you take in away from what you put out. When there is no longer the means to maintain that separation, contamination which has led historically to the deadliest of man's diseases has set in." Drops in population have always preceded the onset of pestilence, including the 14th-century Black Death that killed three-quarters of Europe's population.

The collapse of infrastructure in Pennsylvania is demonstrated by fiscal cutbacks which have left only 35 water quality inspectors to check the state's 7,000 water systems to prevent potential outbreaks of typhoid, cholera, or hepatitis, any one of which could enter a fecal-contaminated water supply through only one carrier.

## Petroleum

### Kissinger and Qaddafi plot coup in Sudan

Henry Kissinger is involved in the moves of Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi to overthrow Sudanese President Jaffar Numeiry and partition Sudan into Muslim and black African states. At stake is control of the large oil reserves in southern Sudan.

Two days after the Libyan bombing of the central Sudanese town of Omdurman March 16, Sudan's Defense Minister Umar Muhammed at-Tayabbi spent six days in Washington where he met with both Henry Kissinger and representatives of Standard of California (Chevron). At-Tayyib returned to Sudan in the company of State Department official Vernon Walters, a long-time Kissinger associate.

The increased military pressure on Sudan by Libya is calculated to destabilize the Numeiry regime and open the way for a coup by a handpicked puppet of Kissinger and the oil companies. Chevron has been exploring for oil in Sudan; it has been revealed that Chevron has hired Kissinger as a consultant. Shortly after Walters's trip to Sudan, Kissinger appeared on U.S. nation-

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wide television and stated that the United States should give no more heavy arms to Sudan. Without continued U.S. aid, Sudan will be rendered defenseless against Libya.

### U.S. Agriculture

#### **Commodity programs to be barely maintained**

Assistant Agriculture Secretary William Leshner told an agricultural policy meeting in Washington D.C. March 27 that the next farm bill will have to include some type of commodity program because the absence of such a program would be too much of a "shock to the system" of U.S. agriculture.

Speaking at the 1984 National Food Policy conference, Leshner claimed "I don't think we can return to the so-called free market with no farm programs." There is still a role for government in agriculture, he stated, although "not as deep as it is today"; it will be to "smooth out the highs and lows" in farm prices.

Leshner is a supporter of the policy the Reagan administration has been putting into effect for three years that has entailed driving down the prices of U.S.-produced commodities to make it possible to sell them on the world market at cheaper prices than other countries.

### Dope, Inc.

#### **Colombian drug mafia claims chauvinism**

United States Ambassador to Colombia Lewis Tams announced March 28 that the United States would cancel the visa of Pablo Escobar, whose drug dealings are estimated at \$10 billion. Tams also announced that the United States was about to ask for the extradition of Escobar and 24 other top Colombian drug chiefs for trial in the United States.

Escobar immediately launched an anti-American campaign in the Colombian daily *El Tiempo*. "I am surprised," he wrote, "that those of us whom you accuse of owning the [cocaine] laboratory [raided and destroyed

by the Colombian government in mid-March] are the same people who are publicly fighting Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, who has shown himself the abject representative of your government in the Colombian cabinet." Escobar registered his "most energetic and patriotic protest against the unmerited intrusion of U.S. ships and authorities into Colombian territory"—part of U.S. cooperation with the war on drugs Lara is conducting.

At the same time, Colombian Communist Party's weekly newspaper *Voz Proletaria* furiously denied Tams's documented assertion that Escobar's cocaine factories are guarded by leftist guerrillas. But, the paper wrote, "the class struggle also goes on in the underground economy. The exploited peasants have found themselves having to cultivate coca and sell it to the mafia's factories."

### Food Crisis

#### **Philadelphia conference on African famine**

The LaRouche Campaign held an Emergency Conference to Stop Genocide in Africa March 25 in Philadelphia. Panelists included former Manhattan Borough President Hulan Jack; Minnesota farm leader and LaRouche Democratic candidate Pat O'Reilly; Second District congressional candidate Susan Bowen; U.S. Club of Life Executive Committee member Sheila Jones from Chicago; and Lyndon LaRouche's scientific adviser Marcia Merry. Conference moderator was Muriel Mirak, a founding member of the international Club of Life.

Conference speakers attacked the Third World policies of Henry Kissinger as destroying the principles of the United States and its historical commitment to developing the world—and related conditions in Africa to the dysentery outbreak in Scranton. A development policy for Africa was presented to the conference, and a resolution was passed calling on the U.S. government to stop genocide in Africa, to forbid racist Henry Kissinger access to all positions of power, and to carry out Lyndon LaRouche's Great Projects approach to African development.

● **THE UNITED STATES** is halving the tariff-free import quotas for newly industrialized nations' goods. Some \$12 billion in exports from major debtor nations will now be subject to duties which will destroy their trade.

● **THE U.S. TRADE DEFICIT** will probably be reduced by 40-60% in the next 18 months if the present trend to a cheaper dollar continues, U.S. Trade Representative William Brock stated March 28. He attributed the sharp rise in the deficit to "economic growth" in the United States, and the drop in exports by developing nations to the debt crisis and the dollar's appreciation.

● **JAPAN'S** six largest steelmakers will spend \$2.71 billion on plant and equipment investment in FY1984, the companies announced March 29. This will mean an overall drop of 23.7% in capital investment from the current fiscal year. Nippon Steel, the largest producer, stated that it had earmarked no funds for expanding capacity; it will emphasize energy conservation, cost reduction, and high-quality products. Nippon will cut its capital investment by 40% from last year.

● **CHINA** and the Japanese corporation Mitsubishi signed a science and technology exchange agreement in early April. The first meeting will be held in Peking in August.

● **HOGS AND PIGS** in the United States are now at 39.5 million head, the lowest March inventory since 1976.

● **THE EIR** three-minute taped report service has been restored following machine repair. We apologize to subscribers for the delay. Any full-year EIR subscriber is eligible to receive the report's phone number, which can be called for a daily international update on breaking developments.