obtain the assistance of the United States. Maybe it is because of some bureaucratic problems in these countries.

**Q:** Can you tell me a little bit about your background before you became Ambassador here?

**Kane:** It's a long story! I started my career here in the United States as Minister Counselor for two years, at the same time covering the U.N. 1966-67. Then I worked for seven years as secretary-general of an economic regional organization called OCAM. This is the organization that created many specialized institutions, regional schools in West and Central French-speaking Africa. Then I was asked to become Ambassador to Canada for four-and-one-half years, and then I went to the U.N. as Permanent Representative of Senegal for two years, 1979-80. From 1980 to 1982, I was Minister of State in Senegal, and then I decided to run for election, and I was elected for five years, but after two years I thought that I was losing part of my time, and I decided again to enter the diplomatic service, because I am a foreign service career officer. So, I was appointed here in August 1984.

# Locust plague continues

The successful large-plane effort in Senegal stands in sharp contrast to the disastrous infestation of locusts and grasshoppers that continues to sweep across the continent. As was absolutely predictable, the policy of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization—small-scale, spotty spraying efforts around croplands, ignoring the vast grassland areas where the pests breed—has allowed the destruction of crops that can only lead to more famine and more deaths.

As the country-by-country report indicates, the situation is grave in West Africa and the Sahel. In East Africa and southern Africa, where locust eggs are expected to hatch during October-December, there is still time to mount the kind of big-plane effort that could stem further disaster. The United States and its allies must bypass the genocidal policy of the FAO and fund a crash program on the scale to get the job done.

Here is the situation in West Africa, as reported in the most recent bulletins of the U.S. Agency for International Development and the FAO's Emergency Center for Locust Operations in Rome:

**Senegal:** Abundant rains at the end of September spawned a second generation of hoppers, some in the already treated areas and others in untreated areas, totaling 650,000 hectares. The DC-7s' second round of aerial spraying with malathion was completed Oct. 17.

**Gambia:** The government declared a disaster Oct. 14, as more cropland came under attack. According to the U.S. AID, the DC-7s are scheduled to spray soon; 250,000 hectares are considered as top priority and another 120,000 hectares of grassland will be done if possible.

**Mali and southeastern Mauritania:** FAO reported that 130,000 more hectares in Mali required treatment in October, but that there were "pesticide shortages." In Mauritania, FAO reported another 170,000 hectares remained to be treated, with grasshoppers at densities of 150 per square meter. The U.S. AID reports, "The window is rapidly closing and not enough time remains to use only small aircraft." The DC-7s sprayed Mali and southeastern Mauritania on Oct. 14, covering 40,000 hectares of the worst infested areas with malathion. In addition, small planes were scheduled to do more targeted spraying.

**Chad:** Locust swarms invaded the capital Ndjamena, and the government began aerial spraying there Oct. 6. Although AID reported, "The pests impede the flow of traffic and paralyze certain activities at nightfall," AID opposed the spraying on the basis that the locusts were "not causing any harm" and that it was a "waste of precious resources" to direct pesticide at something other than crops.

**Burkina Faso:** Crop damage was heavy, after the FAO acted to prevent the DC-7s from doing large-scale spraying.

In Botswana, where the government spent $1.6 million last year fighting the brown locust, the "most dangerous threat from locusts . . . is now to be found," according to the FAO. Yet, when Botswana requested $8 million in aid to fight the plague and keep it from spreading, the second in command at the FAO's Emergency Center for Locust Operations scoffed, saying that this amount was far too much to spend in one country.

The early breeding in Botswana and favorable weather conditions for hatching mean that the surrounding countries—Namibia, Angola, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Swaziland—are threatened as well, if the locusts are not effectively checked in Botswana. A new generation of brown locusts is produced every six weeks, and if the soil is dry, the eggs can survive for years in the soil without hatching, so it is extremely important to eradicate the hoppers when they do hatch. Each locust generation is 10 times the size of the previous one.

One promising development is the ongoing cooperation of the government of South Africa with the neighboring black African states on locust eradication.

*—Marjorie Mazel Hecht*