

# 'Food for Peace' comes into being, pledges fight to end world hunger

by Marcia Merry

Over the Sept. 3-4 weekend, some 400 people met in Chicago on the theme, "Food for Peace," and formed an international action group, pledged to battle world hunger, which has every sign of becoming a mass movement. Represented were 30 states, and 10 nations; the largest group of participants were farmers from all locations.

"It is now urgent that we massively expand food production in this and every other country," state the founding principles of Food for Peace. "We must ensure that not one person goes hungry or needlessly dies for the lack of food, which we could easily produce with the correct policy. To accomplish this awesome but necessary task will require that we build an ever-expanding movement in the United States together with our friends from other countries, whose goal will be to feed the world."

## Drought disaster sparks action

The initiative for the conference and the new institution came about over the summer as drought devastated the U.S. and Canadian breadbasket, which accounts for 58% of annual world grain exports. During the 1980s, world weather patterns have been worsening, to the point that simultaneous disasters now ring the globe: the succession of drought and floods in Sudan and Chad, in the Yangtze Valley in China, and most recently the catastrophic floods in Bangladesh, leaving 21 million people homeless.

Diplomats from Sudan and Senegal reported to the conference on the state of emergency posed by locust swarms in northern Africa, and by the lack of food and devastating floods. Agil Elmanan, economic counselor of the embassy of Sudan in Washington, stressed that his nation could be the breadbasket of Africa but for the debt crisis, which has halted all infrastructure improvements. The needed Jonglei Canal sits 65% finished. It could control flood drainage and create enormous irrigation potential.

An emergency resolution was passed pledging to organize attention on and assistance for Sudan.

In the course of the conference, five other resolutions were adopted on pressing matters of food supply: the need to dissolve the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and break the power of the food cartel that stands behind it; a campaign to reforest the Amazon rain forest to reverse deteriorating global weather patterns; the need to obliterate all

drug production and stop the protection of drug finance, and to shift drug-growing land into food production; the need for food irradiation to protect and permit wider distribution of food supplies; and the necessity of parity prices for farmers worldwide.

The conference was co-sponsored by the Schiller Institute, a transatlantic think tank founded in 1984 by German national Helga Zepp-LaRouche, to promote policies of economic growth and traditional cultural, scientific, and military links among allied nations. Mrs. LaRouche issued a call for action on the agriculture crisis in August of this year, which began by saying, "Unless the current policies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the European Community bureaucracy are immediately stopped and replaced with an emergency world food program, not only will hundreds of millions of human beings be threatened with death by starvation, but a worldwide food shortage will threaten world peace in the most dramatic way."

Hundreds of people responded to the emergency conference initiative, because of anger over the blatant lies about the world food situation being promulgated by officials in Washington, Brussels, and elsewhere. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the EC Agriculture Commission continue to maintain that food stocks are "in surplus," cropland reduction policies (land set-aside) should continue, and that food must continue to flow to the Soviet Union uninterrupted. Officials insist that any disruption of food supplies and price inflation because of the North American drought will be minimal.

## The food output decline

Countering these lies, on Sept. 3, farm representatives gave firsthand reports on the extent of the food crisis around the globe. From North America, Elmer Kichula, of the Canadian Consolidated Agriculture Movement in Saskatchewan, spoke of the drastic fall in Canadian spring wheat. The Canadian government announced in late August that all talks on future grain sales have been suspended, and that outstanding grain export contracts will be filled on a deferred basis. Gerald Kopp, a farmer from Raleigh, North Dakota, described the same devastation to Dakota crops and livestock, reporting, for example, that there is not even sufficient seed from this year's harvest to put in next year's barley and other

small grains crops.

Farmers from France, Denmark, and West Germany spoke on the food crisis in Western Europe. Fritz Hermann, National Board member of the Danish Agriculture Association, reported that in Denmark, one-tenth of all farmers will be forced off the land this year, and another 10% next year. From West Germany, Frido Peper, vice president of the Charolais Breeders Association, reported that a full two-thirds of the German farm population has been dispossessed or soon will be, because of EC food reduction policies. Christian Procquez, chairman of the French Federation of Agriculture for the Marne region, stressed that the fundamental "right of the nation to feed itself" is at stake.

From Ibero-America, two speakers gave stark reports on Colombia and Mexico. Carlos Macías, from the board of the La Laguna Regional Cattlemen's Association in Mexico, reported on the devastation to livestock and feed, especially because of the lack of infrastructure. Dr. Adriano Quintana Silva, president of the Colombian Cereal Producers Federation, reported on how Colombia's agriculture potential has been impeded by cartel food dumping, while the drug trade has been a source of "violence and ruin" in the countryside.

Many other reports were given, and the cap on the global summary was provided by John Neill, a farmer and businessman from New Zealand, who stated that 20,000 of his nation's 60,000 farmers would be out of operation in the next year. Traditionally self-sufficient in grain and a large exporter of sheepmeat and dairy products, New Zealand will soon be dependent on grain imports for over 75% of its needs. All of this is the result of deliberate government, and International Monetary Fund, policies.

An in-depth report on the role of GATT and the policy influence of the Trilateral Commission and food cartel was presented by West German Uwe Friesecke of the Schiller Institute Agriculture Commission. His fellow panelist, Dr. Fred Wills, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana, ridiculed the euphemisms of the IMF circles, who say, for example, there are problems today of "condensed demand," when they are referring to "starvation."

The editor of the pro-nuclear science magazine, *21st Century Science and Technology*, Carol White, led a panel of presentations on what can be done to reverse the collapse and provide abundant food. Dr. Martin Welt, a pioneer in food irradiation, spoke of the huge gains possible in food storage and preservation through food irradiation technologies. Dr. Frank Salisbury, plant physiologist from Utah State University, showed the huge potential of plant production in controlled environments, which he researches in order to determine how to produce crops on the Moon.

A press conference in Washington, D.C. was held Sept. 9 at the U.S. Department of Agriculture to announce the formation of "Food for Peace." The group will actively campaign for agriculture policy change in all OECD member states, and in most Third World nations.

## Peru plunges into drug-dollar 'shock'

by Mark Sonnenblick

On Sept. 6, Economics Minister Abel Salinas proclaimed President Alan García's long-expected repudiation of his attempt to hasten Peru's development in a world going crazy with monetarism. Peru's new "orthodox shock" program should warm the hearts of the International Monetary Fund and other ideologues of neo-liberalism. But, the productive economy will be eradicated, leaving nothing standing except a thriving cocaine export sector. Brutal gutting of living standards will bring social upheaval which will undermine republican government and virtually hand the country over to the barbaric Shining Path narco-terrorists.

Salinas expounded a drastic package of monetarist and Schachtian measures. The pretext is to fight inflation and save dollars. "This is the hour of austerity and discipline," Salinas said.

The Peru package dismantles existing dirigist measures which promoted productive activities and tried to limit speculation. From now on, the entire economy will be keyed to the "free market" rate at which dollars brought in from booming cocaine exports are exchanged for the Peruvian inti. The inti was devalued to 250 to the dollar, which means it will cost eight times as much to pay for vital imports of food and medicine. The burden will be borne by consumers. The government quadrupled the price of gasoline to \$1 a gallon. Pasta increased 250%, bread 171%, powdered milk 100%, rice 140%. Other prices will double or quadruple during the next 10 days, and then will be frozen for 120 days.

To fool labor, the minimum wage will rise by 150% and wages for other workers will go up \$36 a month. These increases barely compensate for the 50% reduction in real wages since the last pay boost in July. That means living standards of wage earners will be frozen for the next four months at approximately one-quarter of what they were during the first two years of the García government.

As the implementation of the package approached, store shelves went bare as consumers and merchants hoarded goods before prices soared. On Sept. 6, police used tear gas and riot clubs to repulse hundreds of people who began looting stores near Lima's main market. The government reminded the people that a state of emergency, permitting deployment of army troops against civilians, was in effect. After the announcement, Lima was paralyzed—stores closed and buses stopped running. The unions are expected to go on general strike.