

Worldwatch propaganda lies that mass starvation is inevitable

by Marcia Merry

During National Agriculture Week, the third week in March, a barrage of news coverage appeared on the subject of how millions may starve from a world food crisis. For example, the front-page headline in the March 22 *Lincoln Star* in Nebraska was "World Food Crisis Looms." This news blitz presented the view that mass starvation is inevitable. This conclusion originated with an Associated Press release the week of March 20, on a report by a Washington, D.C.-based outfit called the Worldwatch Institute. This agency, and its backers, are part of a propaganda campaign to have you believe that people must die in order "to save the environment." In particular, the Worldwatch propaganda covers up the massive flows of grain and other foodstuffs now going to the Soviet Union from scarce Western stocks.

The moral and scientific view that you can both save lives and restore the globe to fruitfulness was taken in a study published in the March 24 issue of the *EIR* ("World Food Needs Show Set-Aside Is Genocide"), and conveyed through a series of press conferences held by the Food for Peace organization's representatives in March.

The *EIR* report showed how the worldwide decline in the amount of land cultivated for grain, and the decline in farm inputs per acre, were resulting in a drastic decline in food to the point that 500 million people would be condemned to go hungry and die. We called for reversing this degradation of agriculture, and for expanding output. The additional result of such a food expansion drive would be the ameliorating effects on the climate of increased vegetative cover and productivity.

In contrast, Worldwatch asserted that the world has been "over-farmed," and that less land should be cultivated, with less energy-intensive inputs per acre. The Worldwatch report was their annual *State of the World 1989*, subtitled, "Progress Toward a Sustainable Society" (February, New York: Norton). The conclusion of this report is that there must be depopulation for a "sustainable society." A Feb. 11 press release by Worldwatch called for "braking the tremendous momentum of population growth that is undercutting living standards in large parts of the Third World." This is double-speak for genocide.

The AP wire caused the story to appear widely. Radio Moscow carried an item on the Worldwatch predictions, quoting Worldwatch President Lester Brown that, "The overall model suggests that we may be moving into a very difficult

situation with food, one where food security may replace military security as the principal preoccupation of many governments in the world."

The Soviets are in a position to know exactly what this means. They may import an all-time annual high of over 55 million tons from the West this year. Meantime, the lack of this amount of grain on the world grain markets, translates into a death sentence for millions in poor grain import-dependent nations, or even to a nation such as Venezuela, which has been forced into food import-dependency for political reason by the International Monetary Fund.

Worldwatch, the Rockefellers, and the Mellons

The Worldwatch study is a 256-page mishmash of pseudo-science, lies, and even cult beliefs. Lester Brown is famous for tooling around Washington on his bicycle, as a show of personal concern to save hydrocarbons and preserve the environment.

However, to understand why the study gets so much play, you have to look at who funds Worldwatch. The big bucks are from the Rockefeller and Mellon trusts, among other foundation channels, whose interests are served by promoting the idea that millions of people must inevitably die because the world ecological system is decaying due to overpopulation. The financial backers of Worldwatch include the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Winthrop Rockefeller Trust, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, among others. This is the core group of private funding channels that has supported zero population growth activities of all kinds for the past 50 years.

The chairman of the board of Worldwatch is Orville L. Freeman, secretary of agriculture in the 1960s, and longtime functionary for international food cartel interests. Freeman is from Cargill Corporation's home state of Minnesota, where he has had a long career in public service for the cartel. The famous-name food cartel companies (Cargill, Continental, Bunge, Louis Dreyfus, Archer Daniels Midland, Garnac/André, and others) are currently dominating agriculture policy in a way to make food scarce and to send huge volumes to the Soviet Union, while starvation reaches genocide levels in Africa and other points of need.

Also on the board of Worldwatch is Edward Cornish, president of the World Future Society, and Larry Minear, of

Church World Service/Lutheran World Relief.

Worldwatch was started in 1974, as a nonprofit research organization, by William M. Dietel of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and Lester R. Brown, who is a former official of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Worldwatch has produced over 80 studies and papers, a number of books, and in 1988, began a bimonthly magazine called *World Watch*.

The theme since the inception of the so-called research group, is that high-technology development of the globe is undesirable. This is the position of the banking interests funding the agency. They view collecting debt service as a matter of their right to primitive looting.

The argument of Worldwatch on the issue of population is that the potential of the Earth to support our current numbers of people has been exhausted by technology, and population has to be cut back. Said Lester Brown, "Unless the threats of climate change, ozone depletion, soil erosion, deforestation, and population growth are brought under control soon, economic decline is inevitable."

The new Worldwatch report is just a collection of scare stories and misinformation to back up this assertion of the inevitability of decline. In the first section, "A World At Risk," Brown and co-authors make the point that world per capita food supplies are decreasing, and then project worse to happen, based on their evaluation that land productivity potential is declining, the Earth is heating up, chemicals are depleting the ozone layer, etc. Nine more sections follow, on subjects including the need to replace the automobile, reduce chlorofluorocarbon emissions, and distribute condoms to prevent AIDS.

The most striking element about the Worldwatch report is its syrupy praise for the Soviet Union. Brown's opening section features the statement, "An environmental awakening has occurred in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union." He notes the large number of environmentalist groups in Poland, for example, "Freedom and Peace," and offers a quote from the group: "Threatened with the ruin of the biosphere, pollution of air, water and soil, we realize that freedom should also be the possibility to live in non-devastated surroundings." Brown praises Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's statements of concern for the environment.

This Worldwatch praise for Russia shows what a rotten propaganda role the group is playing, because the facts on trends of world food production and trade—known and used by Worldwatch—show how the Soviets are commanding huge flows of food imports from the West.

What could be done

A drive to plant more acreage throughout the world, or at least in the major food-exporting nations, plus a crash effort to allocate grain exports to where they are most needed, would prevent the genocide. Increased planting in the six top food-exporting nations alone could result in a needed 230

million tons of food over the next 12 month's crop cycles, which could save the lives of 500 million people.

The March issue of *Food Outlook*, from the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, notes that the rate of planting today is below what even the U.N. considers the minimum. "In view of the sharp fall in world stocks expected at the end of the 1988-89 seasons, during 1989-90 there will be little or no room for further drawdowns in carryovers and world cereal consumption will depend on the outcome of 1989 harvests. Even assuming normal weather in all growing regions in the months ahead, it is now considered highly unlikely that world cereal production will increase in 1989 by the 200 million tons which FAO considers to be required to restore consumption to trend and to replenish stocks to the desired minimum level. . . . Any adverse weather conditions in main producing regions would have serious implications."

The FAO data show the sharply increased exports of Western grain to Russia. This year, an estimated 9.8 million tons of grain equivalent will be available for food aid from the world's food-donating nations, which is the lowest amount in the last six years. Last year (1987-88, from July to June), there were 13.2 million tons. In addition to the drop in shipments of food aid, there is a large drop in stocks for commercial sale to food import-dependent nations. The U.N. notes this in an understatement: "The high prices of grains currently prevailing on international markets, coupled with a substantial reduction in food aid availabilities in 1988-89, will further strain the resources of a number of developing countries which rely on cereal imports." Based on FAO information, it can be estimated that, of the total cereals import requirements for the current year (1988-89 or 1989, depending on the country) for over 60 low-income, food-deficit nations, only about half, or 26.5 million tons, are lined up in commercial orders and food aid pledges, out of a need for close to 50 million tons.

This difference of 25 million tons is almost exactly the additional amount the Soviets are now in a mad rush to import. At the rate Moscow is currently ordering grain imports, this year the Soviet Union may import over 55 million tons of grain—the highest annual amount ever. Moscow may command close to 30% of all grain traded, and soon may expect up to 50% or more. In the first half of the trade year with the United States, the U.S.S.R. has imported over 15.5 million tons of wheat, corn, and soybean products—as much as they bought all last year.

The March FAO *Food Outlook* report warned as a "highlight" issue: "World cereal trade will increase by some 5 percent in 1988-89, mainly on account of larger purchases of coarse grains by the U.S.S.R. Reflecting the tighter supply situation, export prices of wheat and coarse grains remain firm. World cereal stocks will decline by an unprecedented 28 percent in 1988-89, to below the minimum required to safeguard global security."