

EIR Feature

The world food crisis is here: Will war follow?

by Marcia Merry

Seven hundred farmers, civil rights leaders, clergymen, concerned citizens, and resistance activists from China, the East bloc, and many other locations, representing five continents and 35 U.S. states, convened in Chicago, Illinois Nov. 4-5 for the third international Food for Peace conference. The purpose of the two days' intensive deliberations was to analyze the full extent of the food crisis facing mankind—a catastrophe which has been deliberately hidden from public view—and to prepare a worldwide mobilization of “farmers and eaters” to reverse the crisis before it leads to world war.

Back in 1976, when political economist Lyndon LaRouche ran his first campaign for the U.S. presidency, he warned that such a breakdown in world food production would occur, if the insane policies of the zero-growthers were allowed to continue. Farms will go bankrupt, food production will collapse, and there will be mass starvation, he warned. Programmatic proposals to solve the crisis have been a prominent feature of the work of LaRouche and the political movement associated with him in the intervening years—to the dismay of the international monetarist factions and the food cartels.

In July 1988, at the presidential nominating convention of the Democratic Party in Atlanta, Georgia, LaRouche circulated a report that led to the founding of Food for Peace in September 1988. He warned, “The U.S. and Western European agricultural policies have successfully destroyed world food reserves just in time for the arrival of the worst world drought in the 20th century! As a result, there will be a painful shortage of food within the United States and also in Western Europe. At the same time the Soviet Union will be faced with acute food shortages. . . . There will be the strongest pressures on the Soviet regime to use its military superiority as a lever for solving the most acute aspects of its economic crisis.”

In view of LaRouche's unique and indispensable role in foreseeing the crisis and in proposing solutions to it, the participants in the current Chicago conference



Scenes from the Food for Peace movement: Above, thousands gathered at the White House oval on Martin Luther King Day, Jan. 16, 1989, to demand economic justice and freedom for LaRouche. Inset, spokesmen from the U.S., Lebanon, Germany, Great Britain, Ukraine, and Poland at the Chicago conference earlier this month.

vowed to mobilize in their respective states and countries to secure his immediate release from prison, where he is being held as the result of a political frameup.

Expanding production

An entire world picture was presented to the conference from first-hand reports, including speakers on the deprivation in China, the political purges and misery in Ukraine, and the collapse of once-booming farming in Australia and New Zealand.

The central question before the conference, and policy-makers worldwide, is when and how can food production be expanded, because otherwise, millions are dying and the conditions for war are at hand.

What characterized both the speakers and the audience was a desire to initiate emergency actions. There were many proposals from the podium, and the conference as a whole voted up three resolutions by acclamation. A resolution on aid to Poland specified a five-point program to provide food and to rebuild the Polish economy. A second resolution called on President Bush and other Western leaders to recognize Lebanon's struggle to oust Syrian occupation forces; and a third resolution called on world leaders to declare a real war against drugs, including "full support for Colombian President Virgilio Barco's war against the cocaine cartels."

The conference was organized to present the widest possible picture of the crisis and the resistance movements. The meeting opened with the topic, "The Banking Blowout and the Collapse of Physical Production." Among the presentations by 10 speakers were first-hand accounts of the forced shutdown of farms in the food-exporting nations of France, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States.

Other sessions addressed the breakup of the Soviet Empire and the potential for war; and also the alternatives for Asia and particularly China, where millions are oppressed under the Beijing regime. Speakers from Ibero-America spoke on the theme, "Grow Food, Not Dope," and gave a battle report on the war on drugs there.

After these reports, a "tribunal" panel was convened to review the police-state measures now in effect in the United States, against such leaders as Lyndon LaRouche, his associates, and others who have been opposing the murderous economic policies resulting in the global food crisis and strategic war danger.

The conference closed with a session titled "Environmentalism Kills," in which speakers cited the ways that bogus issues of "environmental protection"—such as scientifically unfounded worry over ozone holes or the supposed greenhouse effect, were being used as an excuse for deliberate policies to dispossess citizens and sovereign nations, and to degrade and depopulate much of the world.

The material presented in the pages below summarizes some of the reports made to the conference specifically on the agriculture and food crisis. In just the 14-month period since the founding of the Food for Peace effort, the question of the world food supply has become a strategic issue of war or peace, as can be seen clearly, for example, in the developments around Poland and East Germany. With the outbreak of an anti-bolshevik resistance movement in the East, the political conditions are now ripe for implementing exactly the kind of program that Food for Peace is now proposing—not only for Eastern Europe, but for the whole world. This will be the subject of a followup conference in Europe at the end of November.