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## International Farmers Report

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# Where the world food crisis stands now

Farmers from around the world presented the Food for Peace conference with an in-depth report on the state of agriculture in their respective nations.

**Pierre Compe**, a farmer from France, underlined in his speech the moral degeneration of the Western countries, as manifested in the current drive for drug legalization. This moral collapse has prevented the world from dealing with real problems, such as that of hunger in the world. He then turned to a review of how the agriculture crisis is affecting Europe:

“Food production is no longer a priority; public debate is concentrated on how to reduce crops and productivity. The main goal of agriculture is no longer to produce food, but to supply industry with raw materials and land for the construction of leisure parks. Thus we are told that there is overproduction, when in



reality there is a shortage of food. We proposed wheat to Poland, which we have been unable to deliver. At the same time, though, in order to maintain good relations with the Russians, we sold them butter and meat at prices lower than production costs. . . .

“Agriculture has more and more difficulties in paying its debts, and with more than \$50,000 debt per farmer on the average, that is about 30% of the average income—the farm sector is more indebted than any other activity. Indebtedness is concentrated in the hands of 50% of the farmers, who invest less and sometimes are pushed toward bankruptcy. . . .

“In brief, we can say that the evolution in farming is manipulated by [the European Community bureaucracy in] Brussels, as a reflection of decisions made by the financial cartels which want: to lead 80% of farms to bankruptcy; to

take control (by financial trickery or sheer power) of the remaining 20%; to produce goods they can stockpile or goods whose production they can control (industrial animal raising).

“We are moving, in France and in Europe, toward farming deprived of any humanitarian purpose; motivation, conviction, and technical competence are more and more being replaced by speculation and finance. . . .

“Measures aimed at reducing production will lead thousands more independent farmers to bankruptcy, increasing the power of cartels which will be able to organize an even more draconian shortage. The food, produced in ever-decreasing quantity, by a smaller and smaller group of people, will become a terrible weapon, to the effect of replacing the atomic bomb in its net effect, and enslaving the food-dependent continents.

“So, it is the duty of all countries to not only talk about the war on drugs, or to feed the country; they have to act together and as soon as possible. In fact, such a battle requires great unity; its goal should be to promote growing agricultural production, the expansion of medical care, and technological progress in all fields. That is the only positive way to fight the International Monetary Fund malthusianism, to save Third World countries from their debt, and to bring to all mankind peace and liberty.”

### Conditions in Australia

**Ian Murphy**, a sheep farmer from Australia, has been touring the United States with his wife, Anne Marie, speaking to U.S. farmers and others about the international food crisis. In his speech to the conference, he underlined that the first step in any recovery program is, “Give honor to God.” He offered a prayer, calling on the power of Satan’s adversary, St. Michael the Archangel, to defend this movement in its battle against the Devil.

In his review of the farm crisis in Australia, Murphy reported that the country’s greatest export-earner, wool, “has been driven down in price by the multinational buyers by 40% in the last six months. Wool growers are currently *buying back 60% of their own wool with their own money*, simply because the international cartels are refusing to bid at the wool auctions. As a result of the collapse of the Australian wool market, sheep prices have fallen from an average \$25 per head to an average price of \$7.50. . . .



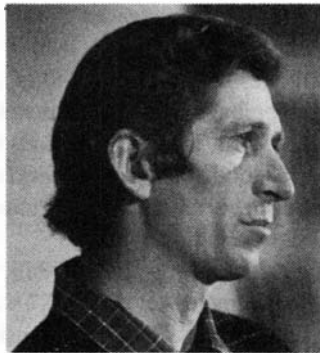
“The minister for environment in the federal government has stated he intends to *depopulate* the ‘marginal’ farming areas.

"Farmers in Australia and business people now have to pay an interest rate of 25%. This is usury at its worst. No one can pay 25% interest, and as a result, farmers are losing their farms, and business people are going into bankruptcy."

### The plot against New Zealand

**John Henderson**, a farmer from New Zealand, presented a comprehensive picture of the destruction of his country's economy since 1976 "as a result of a systematic plot by a small handful of international financiers, working through their friends in both of New Zealand's major parties." Since 1984, under the present Labour government, the radical deregulation of the economy has created a disaster, including in agriculture.

"As many of you know, tiny New Zealand is one of the world's largest exporters of dairy products and sheepmeat," Henderson said. "With our rich soil and our skilled farmers, we also grow many other things, including wheat. I would like to use the example of wheat to show how the international bankers and the grain cartels are destroying our production."



"In 1984-85 one of the junior members of the international grain cartel, Goodman Fielder (now known as Goodman Fielder Wattie), imported wheat from Australia, paying \$360 per ton, landed at Auckland, New Zealand. At the same time, the same company offered New Zealand farmers only \$180 per ton for their wheat. At this time, we were 100% self-sufficient in wheat, except for some specialist lines. Now we produce only 10% of what we need. . . .

"This same firm, Goodman Fielder Wattie, then moved into the sheepmeat industry, through arrangements with Waitaki International, one of New Zealand's largest meat processors, and through arrangements with the New Zealand Meat Producers' Board. Instead of concentrating on producing a physical product, Waitaki's whiz kids lost \$140 million speculating on the foreign exchange market. The resulting collapse of the company allowed them to force down workers' wages, and badly hurt the primary producers. . . .

"The government is aiding this destruction of the meat industry. One of our cabinet members just returned from signing a deal with Russia for meat at 70¢ a kilo, which is 2.2 pounds. If we had put any effort at all into marketing this meat, instead of handing it to the Russians, we would have gotten at least \$2-4 per kilo."

### Cambodia could export food

**Heng Cheng**, the former President and agriculture minister of Cambodia, who now resides in Texas, reported to the

assembly on his successful efforts to expand the agricultural production of his nation, before the communists led by Pol Pot took over in 1975 and plunged Cambodia into barbarism, killing over 1 million people.

"When I was secretary of agriculture of Cambodia," he said, "I encouraged expansion of agriculture through new technologies, such as selection of seed, use of tractors to replace oxen, use of fertilizer and insecticides, and also, a policy to protect the price paid to the producers. I was the first secretary of agriculture to explain to the government that, for example, to have rice, you have to spend 160 days from planting to harvest. You must know each day what you have to pay to produce the crop, so you must know if you will have the price. In other words, we had what you used to have in the United States, a parity price, to cover the cost of production. . . .



"When I first became secretary of agriculture, we had no tractors. We soon had more than 4,000 tractors. In a new area to plow, to exploit by oxen, it takes five years to exploit one hectare; by the tractor, it takes one day for five hectares. To help people buy tractors, we protected the price of the tractors with a tax exemption, and we gave an exemption from tax for buying fertilizer. We had a very large increase in production and exports. . . .

"Our reforms showed that Cambodia could be a food exporter. . . . From the Great Lake to the south, all along the Mekong Delta, there is very rich land. The Mekong flows from Tibet, and flows for 4,000 kilometers. The land around this river is very fertile. In my opinion, if we have real security, we could rebuild very fast."

### Farming in Venezuela

**Simón Pacheco**, Venezuelan president of the National Association of Yucca Producers, proposed that his country be the host of the next Food for Peace conference. He outlined a national plan to increase production of yucca, a high-energy vegetable consumed primarily in the Caribbean countries. Pacheco stressed the strategic importance of agricultural production within his nation's economy. "Agricultural policy is the backbone of development," he said.

