

Agriculture by Marcia Merry

Yeutter and Hills want blood

The European Community's decision to cut price supports to farmers is still not enough for GATT's "free trade" vampires.

On Oct. 4, the European Commission of the European Community (EC) voted up a proposal on how to cut supports to the farmers of the 12-member nation group. This position was taken for submission by Oct. 15, to the final negotiations of the United Nations General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) member nations, which are in the last round of talks to conclude a global treaty for policing all agriculture trade. Called the "Uruguay Round" of talks on agriculture, the four years of sessions are to conclude a treaty to eliminate national obstructions to "free trade" by December this year.

President George Bush, and his henchmen, Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter and Trade Representative Carla Hills, have been demanding that the EC, Japan, and all 100 GATT member nations give up their sovereign rights to decide their own food and farm policies. Washington wanted the EC to cut farm supports by 70%.

The new EC plan offers to cut the supports to European farmers by 30%, figured over a 10-year period from 1986 to 1996, for main farm products (cereals, rice, sugar, oil seeds and protein crops, and livestock). A 10% reduction is proposed for other products (fruits, vegetables, and tobacco).

This decision was taken after discussion by all 17 members of the European Commission of the EC. The vote represents such people as Commissioner Franz Andriessen, external relations commissioner, who leads the EC representatives at the GATT talks, and is trying to palliate the United States. Two weeks ago, the body

turned down the 30% proposal (advanced by Agriculture Commissioner Ray MacSharry), by a narrow margin, on the grounds that it did not lower subsidies to the farm sector enough to please Washington. But by October, they mustered the votes.

Andriessen, Yeutter, Hills, and cohorts in Canada, Australia, and other top food-exporting nations, are blatantly serving the interests of the world cartel of food companies (Cargill, Archer Daniels Midland, Continental, Bunge, André/Garnac, Central Soya/Ferruzzi, Louis Dreyfus, Nestlé, Unilever, and others) which has been permitted to dominate all world trade in foodstuffs, while systematically underpaying farmers. Cargill sends executives to attend the GATT Uruguay Round.

GATT's policy of underpaying farmers inevitably creates food shortages and starvation—in keeping with the often-expressed genocidalist call for drastically reducing the number of non-white people in the world. That policy is in effect now.

There is deep European opposition to the immorality of the GATT proposals. German Agriculture Secretary Kiechle has warned that the U.S. subsidy-cutting demands would mean that 10 million out of the 12 million farmers of Europe would be wiped out. Kiechle has felt the political heat from massive anti-GATT demonstrations by European farmers this spring.

On the U.S. side, the Department of Agriculture has admitted that 500,000 out of America's 2 million farmers will be forced out of business under the GATT-type cuts now being negotiated.

Italy's Agriculture Minister Vito Saccomandi recently accused the United States of applying a double standard in the GATT talks. Among other things, this refers to last month's action by the USDA to ship discount U.S. wheat flour to the Soviet Union, to undercut European shipments. Washington has done the same thing in northern Africa.

However, Secretary Yeutter and Trade Representative Hills, like President Bush, have been mocking and disdainful of other nations' interests, of farmers everywhere, and of the millions now dying for lack of food.

In August, Yeutter went to Thailand and Japan to insult their farm policies, using his limited mental references that have become a joke at the USDA. According to the USDA "Executive Notes" report on his diatribes against Japan's support to its rice-growers, "He pointed out in baseball terms, an American game very popular in Japan, that it wouldn't be fair to expect to have baseballs pitched to you underhand while you use a rocket launcher to pitch to the other side. Rules should be the same on both sides in the international marketplace, as well, he pointed out."

Contrary to Yeutter's homely "logic" about fairness, there can be no trade benefits and justice under the GATT, no matter what the final agreement of the Uruguay Round. The institution was established in the 1940s, along with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to continue pre-war colonialism and economic repression under disguise.

The particular target of the Bush, Yeutter, Hills trade onslaught is the potential for a united Germany to form a centralizing economic force to supply food and technology to revive Europe, assist the Third World, and break down colonialism—communist or "free enterprise."