

## Agriculture by Marcia Merry

### United States imports Swedish barley

*A frenzy of food dumping is being organized by the world food cartel under the Bush free trade policy.*

**E**ven before the congressional vote took place on whether to continue the Bush administration's imperial demand for "fast track," rubber stamp approval of any free trade agreement with Mexico or the 100 member nations of the U.N. GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), there are new examples almost daily of dumping of farm commodities by the world cartel of food companies.

At the beginning of May, a ship filled with barley from Sweden floated into port in California, to unload its golden cargo at Continental Grain's Stockton elevator.

U.S. barley growers were livid, but those who castigated Washington officials and the cartel companies for failing to enforce "fair play" among nations, and allowing subsidized Swedish barley to enter port, were wasting their breath. The rhetoric of "free trade" is just a cover for free-for-all dumping and usury by a select group of companies, banks, and private interests who see themselves as above the law of nations. They are wheeling and dealing in commodities, while deliberately denying food, and the means to produce food, to millions who are starving.

The Swedish barley shipment in April had 920,000 bushels, and another shipment rumored to be on the way, will displace about the amount that Montana barley growers send to California, which is one-third of Montana's market for barley, according to the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee.

The grain cartels (Continental,

Cargill, Archer Daniels Midland, André, Bunge, Louis Dreyfus, and Ferruzzi) have brought in Swedish oats to the U.S. market over the past 10 years. One trader reports that 12 shiploads of oats from Sweden are lined up for the coming months.

John Mittleider, director of marketing for the North Dakota Barley Council, said of the Swedish barley innovation, "We may end up being a dumping ground." He charged, "It certainly doesn't sit well with our growers that one of our exporting firms that has benefitted from U.S. subsidy programs aimed to support domestic prices is also importing barley, softening the domestic market."

Mittleider is referring to the Export Enhancement Program, in which the big grain trading companies get free government handouts of grain and other commodities in order to guarantee the cartel's profits in their trade deals. Recently Continental was given a fat export bonus to sell discount feed barley to Israel.

This is not the exception, but the rule of free trade. The food cartel companies regard the proposed GATT and North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico as merely a license to completely consolidate their deadly control over farm and food supplies everywhere. The grain cartel issued a statement April 24 in favor of NAFTA and the fast track, signed by Continental Grain Co., Cargill, ADM, Louis Dreyfus, and three dozen other individuals and groups.

They called themselves the Na-

tional Agricultural Advisory Committee (NAAC) of the Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs.

The Citizens Network includes among its directors, banker David Rockefeller, ADM head Dwayne Andreas, and AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland. Henry Kissinger, who promotes the policy of using food as a weapon, is an honorary adviser.

Little wonder that food dumping is rampant. Heinz, for example, produces ketchup in Tijuana with cheap labor and underpriced produce.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture last year gave sudden approval to allowing Mexican beef to enter the U.S., which heretofore had been considered unreliable under sanitation codes. Five in-bond abatoirs are producing beef at serf-labor wages for export to the United States.

The most dramatic case of dumping is the criss-crossing of wheat over the U.S.-Canada border since the Free Trade Agreement went into effect two years ago. At that time Cargill and the other cartel companies re-positioned elevators and grain assembly points to control the North American wheat belt, outside government power. To serve cartel interests, Canadian wheat was first dumped into the United States. Then, as of April this year, the Canadian government authorities agreed that U.S. wheat should be allowed to cross into Canada freely without import licenses.

To give cover for this, an elaborate set of calculations is done by bureaucrats to determine which national sector of farmers has a marginally higher degree of subsidy, and then they are dumped on by the cartel trade. In the wheat decision, sources say that Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney (called Lyin' Brian Baloney) personally made the decision to allow in U.S. wheat, over the objections of his cabinet.