

This British "Dope, Inc." bank ordered Zimbabwe to kill its own people.

Let them eat debt

In the last category, on Aug. 4, the government raised the price of maize meal, the major staple, by 50%, and the price of bread by 67%. The price hike, the government said, was necessary to offset the cost of importing food relief.

Then, on Sept. 2, drought victims were told that would have to live on 5 kilograms (11 pounds) of maize a month—a quarter of what they need to survive. The government, as reported by Reuters, said it was slashing food relief by two-thirds from 15 kilograms to 5, because of difficulties importing food. Aid workers say that a person needs 20 kilograms a month of maize meal to survive.

Striking the understated tone of a British aristocrat, Deputy Social Affairs Minister Florence Chituro told a news conference, "We are dealing with a crisis situation which calls for some modification in our eating habits. People are being urged to prepare just enough food for their immediate consumption and not to throw away leftovers!"

Such admonitions tend to ignore the reality that the food consumption has already fallen to starvation levels. According to an Oct. 1 Reuters wire, people are now dying of hunger in northern Zimbabwe. Although the government has not admitted any deaths by starvation, Chief Sansali of the Binga district told Reuters: "I told my people to fend for themselves while we wait for nature to take its course. It already has anyway, because my people are dying of hunger every day."

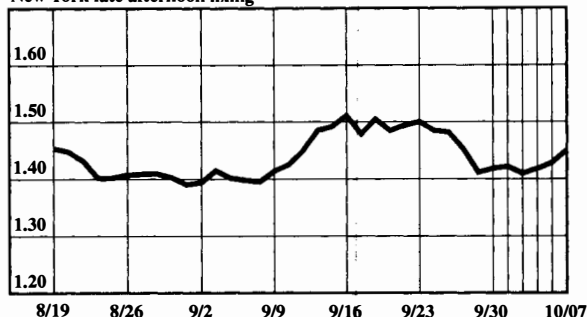
There are some recompenses, however. On Sept. 14, the IMF announced approval of a \$459 million loan for Zimbabwe, which of course is dependent upon strict adherence to the structural adjustment program.

And, in an action that will be a relief for animal lovers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service declared that it would give Zimbabwe \$200,000 in emergency aid to help relocate about 400 elephants parched by the drought. "In addition to saving these animals from almost certain death, the relocation expands the African elephant's range outside the park into areas where they have been absent for years," FWS director John Turner happily noted.

Currency Rates

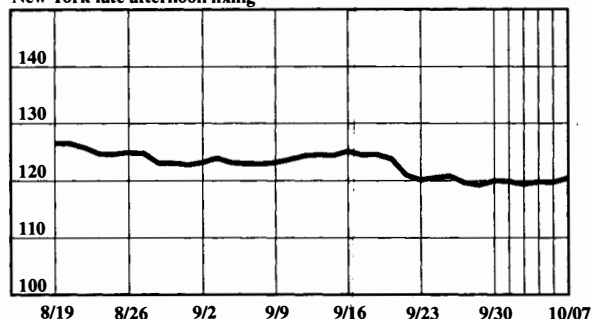
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



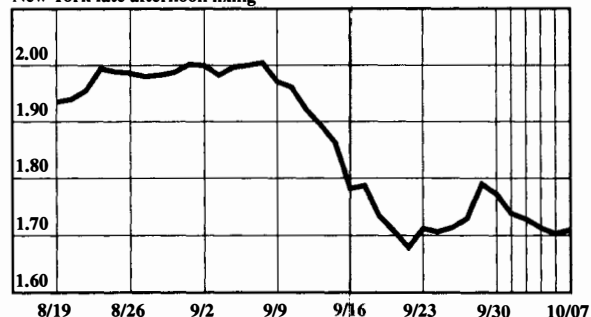
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing

