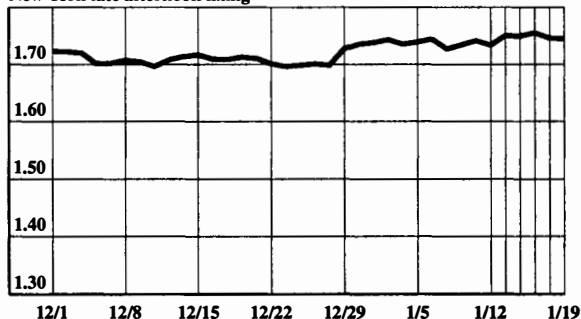


Currency Rates

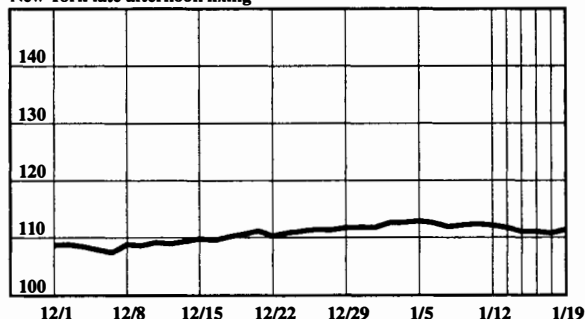
The dollar in deutschmarks

New York late afternoon fixing



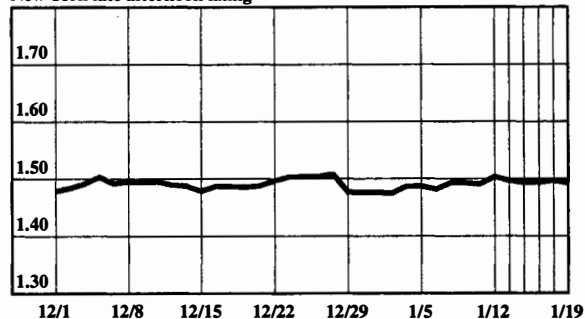
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



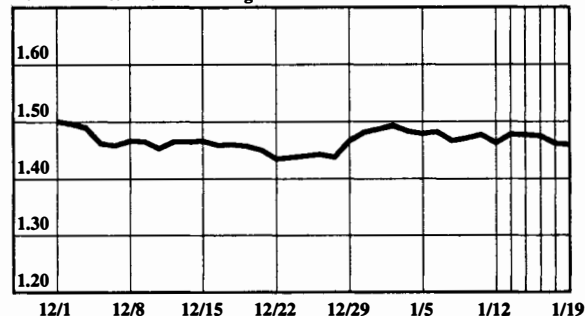
The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



African scientists reject malthusianism

In our issue of Jan. 7, we reported the extraordinary challenge delivered by the African Academy of Sciences to the malthusian propaganda buildup to the U.N. International Conference on Population and Development, which is to be held in Cairo, Egypt in September of this year. As Paul Gallagher wrote (p. 4), the short document authored by J.K. Egunjobi of Nairobi, Kenya, the head of programs of the African Academy of Sciences, "is meek and humble, but blessed and true. It nobly defies the dogma of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Club of Rome, and the sterilization mafia of Johns Hopkins University." We publish the full text of Egunjobi's statement below (subheads have been added).

The Cairo conference is the third of the U.N.'s World Population Conferences which are being held every ten years. The first, in Bucharest, Romania in 1974, was key-noted by such leading lights of the malthusian anti-population movement as John D. Rockefeller III and Club of Rome chief Aurelio Peccei. That conference, contrary to the plans of its organizers, saw a fight for human life waged by the Vatican and some Third World governments, and spearheaded by Helga Zepp, then a leading associate, now the wife, of Lyndon LaRouche. The second World Population Conference took place in Mexico City in 1984.

In 1993, the British Royal Society and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences prepared a "Joint Statement on Population by the World's Scientific Academies," which was adopted at an international conference in New Delhi Oct. 24-27, 1993. The Joint Statement is a typical malthusian tract, fraudulently assuming that no technological breakthroughs are available to the human species, to solve the problems of the availability of food, water, and energy for a growing world population. Professor Egunjobi's dissenting report was presented to that New Delhi meeting.

Africa needs people

The African Academy of Sciences has studied the draft statement intended to be issued at the Population Summit of the World Scientific Academies, and wishes to comment as follows:

1) Care must be taken to acknowledge that while current rates of population growth and even absolute rates of population sizes may be and are a problem for particular countries, for Africa, population remains an important resource for development, without which the continent's natural resources will remain latent and unexplored. Human resource development must therefore form part of the population/resource issue. The forthcoming 1994 U.N. International Conference on Population and Development must receive the message clearly.

2) Part of the complexity of the population issue is that there are wide variations both between and within regions and countries. Consequently, the strategic planning needs of each country and region could vary very dramatically. Therefore, defining population as a global problem without qualification obscures this dimension. There cannot, therefore, be one target for all countries at all times. An African agenda would be very different.

3) Population policy is not only about fertility regulation. Fertility is only one parameter that requires management. Policies relating to the entire health sector, migration and urbanization and socio-economic conditions (especially that of women) in a nation are important elements in an effective population policy.

4) For most African couples, marriage is not only for companionship, but also, most importantly, for procreation. The statement completely ignores that, for certain parts of Africa, infertility is a major problem. Family planning should also be designed to look into the problems of infertility, so that couples who so desire may be able to procreate and meet their life desires.

5) To imply that family planning is the panacea for fertility regulation and even development, is at least simplistic. An understanding of the social and cultural milieu of African societies is central to an analysis of the success or failure, or the intrinsic value or otherwise, of family planning programs. In Africa, many of the so-called impediments to family planning have a rationality which requires careful assessment.

6) Whether or not the Earth is finite will depend on the extent to which science and technology are able to transform the resources available for humanity. There is only one Earth—yes; but the potential for transforming it is not necessarily finite.

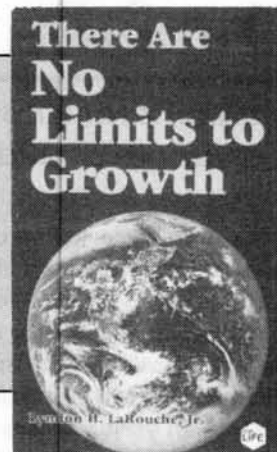
7) The international economic environment in which Africa's development policies and programs are defined and executed is an important variable in the population debate. The contribution of the North to Africa's population predicament must be acknowledged in any suggestions as to how that situation is to be confronted.

8) The Summit statement should envision specific actions and collaborative strategies by the various Academies in the wake of the Cairo conference. A special panel on population and development could be set up by the Scientific Academies to develop and refine such actions and strategies.

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