

Gingrich et al. today, as it gripped the evil Bertrand Russell throughout his adult life, the infection can be fatal, not only to the victims, but the nation which tolerates such victimizations.

The issue of the right to food has become the choice of contest which will determine whether this imperilled civilization of our planet survives the closing years of this century. The *Executive Intelligence Review's* stand on this issue is clear; what will your choice be?

Note: Whenever the name of "LaRouche" is mentioned, credulous people suffer attacks of their own bad conscience, in tolerating what has been exposed as a fraudulent, politically motivated prosecution. Therefore, it is necessary, repeatedly, to remind folk of the mass of published proof of the fraudulent character of the prosecution and trial in that case. See, *Railroad! U.S.A. vs. Lyndon LaRouche, et al.* (Washington, D.C.: Commission to Investigate Human Rights Violations, 1989). See, also, Report of the Clark Commission (1994), and televised documentary of testimony by Odin Anderson, Esq., former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, and Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., Aug. 31-Sept. 1, 1995, before a Commission of Inquiry co-chaired by former U.S. Representative James Mann (D-S.C.) and J.L. Chestnut, Esq., of Selma, Alabama. The "LaRouche" case was initiated, under provisions of U.S. Executive Order 12333, on the initiative of former U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, in January 1983; the conduct of the foreign national-security operations under which the legal prosecution was conducted, fell under the control of Vice-President George Bush, under the provisions of the January 1981 National Security Decision Directive 3, appointing Bush head of the Special Situation Group responsible for supervising implementation of the relevant provisions of E.O. 12333. Failing all legal avenues for eliminating target LaRouche, Bush's agents, with aid from Bush's accomplice William Weld of the Justice Department, conducted a fraudulent, illegal bankruptcy of three Virginia firms related to the political movement with which LaRouche was associated, on April 21, 1986, terminating all payments by these firms. Later, following a mistrial in an attempted Boston prosecution which Federal Judge Keeton identified as corrupted with the government's systematic and institutional misconduct, on Oct. 14, 1988, an Alexandria, Virginia Federal indictment was brought against LaRouche et al., over non-payment of political loans of the firms which Weld et al. had unlawfully, and fraudulently destroyed. In this case, Federal Judge Albert V. Bryan, Jr. used a Rule 403 *in limine* provision, allowing the exclusion of relevant evidence, to conceal such things as the fraudulent actions by the U.S. Attorney Henry Hudson, in creating the bankruptcy, and Judge Bryan's own earlier role in allowing the non-repayments of those firms' relevant loans.

Documentation

Pontifical Council on 'World Hunger'

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Introduction

The right to food is one of the principles enshrined in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The 1969 Declaration on Social Progress and Development declared the need for "the elimination of hunger and malnutrition and the guarantee of the right to proper nutrition." Likewise, the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, adopted in 1974, declared that every person has the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition for their full development and to preserve their physical and mental capacities. In 1992 the World Declaration on Nutrition recognized that access to suitable, wholesome and safe food is a universal right.

These words leave no room for doubt. The public conscience has spoken out unambiguously. Yet millions of people are still marked by the ravages of hunger and malnutrition or the consequences of food insecurity. Is this due to a lack of food? Not at all! It is generally acknowledged that the resources of the planet, taken as a whole, are sufficient to feed everyone living on it. Indeed, the per capita availability of food worldwide has even increased by about 18 percent over the past few years.

The challenge facing the whole of humanity today is certainly economic and technological in character, but it is more specifically an ethical, spiritual and political challenge. The challenge is as much a matter of practical solidarity and authentic development as it is of material advancement. . . .

A. Economic Causes

10. The primary cause of hunger is poverty. Food security essentially depends upon an individual's purchasing power and not the physical availability of food. Hunger exists in every country. It has resurfaced in European countries, West and East alike, and is very widespread in countries that are insufficiently and incorrectly developed.

However, the history of the 20th century shows that economic poverty is not an inevitability. Many countries have taken off economically and are continuing to do so at this very moment. At the same time still others are foundering after falling prey to national or international policies based on false premises. . . .

B. Sociocultural Causes

14. Ten thousand years ago the world probably had a population of 5 million. In the 17th century, with the dawning of the modern age, it had reached 500 million. Then the demographic growth rate began to rise more steeply: to 1 billion by the beginning of the 19th century, 1.65 billion at the beginning of the 20th, 3 billion in 1964, 4 billion in 1975, 5.2 billion in 1990, 5.5 billion in 1993, and 5.6 billion in 1994. For a time, the demographic situation developed differently between the "affluent" and the "developing" countries. This situation is still evolving. Let us not forget that proliferation is a reaction by nature—and consequently by the human being—to threats

to the survival of the species.

Research has shown that as peoples and nations become more affluent, high birth rates and high death rates are reversed to low birth rates and low death rates. The transition period may be critical in terms of food resources, because the death rate falls before the birth rate. Technological changes must accompany population growth, otherwise the regular agricultural production cycle is broken due to the depletion of the soils, the reduction of fallow periods and the lack of crop rotation.

15. Is rapid population growth a cause or a consequence of underdevelopment? Except in extreme cases, population density cannot account for hunger. Let us look first at the following facts. It was in the overpopulated deltas and valleys of Asia that the "green revolution" agricultural innovations were first applied. Yet countries with small populations like Zaire or Zambia, which could have fed a population 20 times the size of their own without requiring any major irrigation schemes, are still short of food. The reason lies in the skewed measures imposed by governments and in economic management and policies, not in any objective causes or economic poverty. Today it is said that there is a greater chance of reducing excessive demographic growth by trying to reduce mass poverty than there is of combating poverty merely by reducing the population growth rate. . . .

C. Political Causes

16. Depriving people of food has been used throughout history and is still used today as a political or military weapon. In some cases this is a veritable crime against humanity.

Yet there have been many such cases in the 20th century, such as:

a) Stalin's systematic withholding of food from Ukrainian peasants around 1930, causing the deaths of some 8 million people. This crime, which remained unknown, or almost, for a long time, was confirmed with the opening up of the Kremiin archives.

b) The recent sieges in Bosnia, particularly of Sarajevo, when even humanitarian aid itself was held hostage.

c) The resettlement of whole populations in Ethiopia to enable the one-party government to gain political control. Hundreds of thousands of people died as a result of the famine caused by forced migration and by abandoning the crops.

d) The cutting off of food to Biafra in the '70s was used as a weapon against political secession.

The collapse of the Soviet Union has helped to remove one of the causes of civil wars, the provocation by direct Soviet intervention or reaction to its intervention including: revolutions resolving nothing, displaced populations, the breakdown of organized agriculture, tribal strife and genocide. However, many situations still remain, or have re-emerged, which could give rise to the same phenomena once again. Even though possibly not on the same scale, these are no less damaging to the people. Today's situations are mainly

a matter of resurgent nationalism being fostered by a few ideologically driven regimes, local repercussions of struggles for influence between the developed countries, and power struggles in certain countries, especially in Africa. . . .

24. At the very heart of social justice lies the principle of the universal and common destination of the goods of the earth. Pope John Paul II has expressed it in the following words: "God gave the earth to the whole human race for the sustenance of all its members, without excluding or favoring anyone." This constant affirmation in the Christian tradition is not sufficiently reiterated, even though it is evidently of relevance to the whole of humanity, irrespective of creed.

This axiom is a necessary foundation on which to build a society based on justice, peace and solidarity. For, generation after generation, we must see ourselves as the temporary stewards of the resources of the earth and the production system. In consideration of the purposes of creation, the right to property is not absolute. It is one of the expressions of the dignity of each person. However, only if it is ordered to the common good and when it assists the advancement of all is it just. This is exercised and recognized in different ways in different cultures.

25. Ignorance of the common good goes hand in hand with the exclusive and sometimes excessive pursuit of particular goods such as money, power or reputation when viewed as absolutes to be sought for their own sakes: namely as idols. This is what created the "structures of sin," all those places and circumstances in which habits are perverse and which demand proof of heroism on the part of all new arrivals if one is to avoid acquiring such habits. . . .

42. As indicated earlier, since 1985 the international community has been managing the debt burden. Its prime concern is to avoid the destruction of the financial system which holds together the financial institutions in every country. It is thanks to this system that in different countries and from one crisis to another the debts have been consolidated and all the debtors of one and the same country placed on an equal level. This is neither legal nor socially just. Conversely, all the lenders have been led to waive a proportion of their debt claims, varying in each case. This demands a great deal of fair-mindedness and vigilance so that the brave and reform-minded countries are not penalized more than others.

It is evident that the debt needs to be substantially reduced still further. But it is right that this reduction should be accompanied by reforms—in every country—to ensure that the circumstances that originally gave rise to the debt situation are not forgotten and there is no repetition of the same mistakes, including: excessive and poorly targeted public expenditure, local private development without relevance to the national economy, excessive competition between lending and exporting countries, and encouraging unnecessary and even detrimental sales. In any case, it must be acknowledged that conditions in the misdeveloping countries cannot be improved unless there is greater stability in the social and political/institutional framework.