

World Harvests Below Need; UN Ducks Crisis

by Leni Rubinstein

The Sept. 12 release of the monthly “World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates,” by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives forecasts of the size of major grain harvests expected for 2008-09, which in brief, show that, “we’re nowhere,” when it comes to mobilizing to double agriculture output worldwide, in order to supply food for all. Up perhaps 4% from last year, the combined global crops of wheat, rice, and corn remain below minimum diet needs, especially with the continuation of the bio-energy insanity, where corn and oil crops are being consumed for ethanol and diesel.

The annual September session of the UN General Assembly seems the obvious venue for international collaboration to launch a food production mobilization, as part of emergency debate and action required to deal overall with the blowout of the world financial system, now crashing by the hour. However, as of Sept. 16, the official opening of the 63rd session of the General Assembly, no such matters were included on the pre-set agenda of UN activities in New York for the period through Oct. 1.

Instead, there are dirty maneuvers to sideline essential discussion into such ongoing policy-control tracks as the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) schema, which was set in motion in recent years by British neo-imperial networks, among them, George Soros’s NGOs. On Sept. 25, there will be a UN emergency summit on MDG, with the economic breakdown and food crisis subsumed under “anti-poverty” and “fighting hunger.”

Then there is the ruse of the “agriculture value chain” discussion, promoted by world food cartels, and based on maintaining the kind of free-trade, cash-cropping, food-seed-patenting and other looting practices that caused the food crisis in the first place. From Sept. 21-26 at the UN, there will be an “Agricultural Value Chain Market Place,” which is described by its spon-

sors—the U.S. State Department AID and the UN Development Program—as intended to “demonstrate the importance of market-based strategies ... and public and private investment” to end hunger.

The common theme throughout these staged operations is the preservation of globalization, and suppression of national sovereignty. The stress is on “open” (rigged) markets, public-private partnerships (with the World Wide Fund for Nature, Monsanto, et al.), reducing carbon footprints, ending “rich” nations’ farmer subsidies, and other globaloney, especially the fattest lie of all: the Al Gorey hoax that global warming is upon us, and is to blame for the inevitable global hunger and de-population.

Break Ranks

The hope for humanity is that certain national leaders will break ranks during the general debates, or side sessions, and speak out on behalf of nations, not “market forces” and “public/private partnerships.” For example, a side event on Sept. 24 will be sponsored by China, which is taking very concrete action for national food production increases. Russia, which also is increasing food output, announced at the Group of Eight meeting in July that it will host a world grain summit, although it is currently scheduled for Spring 2009, too late for many facing hunger now.

Over this past Summer, Helga Zepp-LaRouche originated a Schiller Institute resolution for international endorsement, demanding that this year’s annual UN General Assembly take up the urgent tasks of dealing with the world food crisis, and establishing emergency measures for a new world credit system to revive and expand economic activity.

At the same time, several member-nation governments, in particular, Indonesia, called for a UN summit to take up the food crisis as a principal focus. This was not heeded. Now, the dramatic events of the crack-up of the financial system underscore the need to break with the global controlled environment once and for all.

World Grain Output in 2008-09

The total world grain output (of all kinds) for the 2008-09 crop year, is forecast for 2,195 million metric tons (mmt). This is up about 4% from last year’s 2,117 mmt, but way below the volume of grains output that would meet needs and also provide safe levels of grain reserves—that is, “carryover” from year to year. In

fact, this year's carryover estimate is for only 367 mmt, which in absolute tonnage terms is below what the carryover was for 19 years, from 1984 to 2002, which ranged from 450 to 550 mmt. Supplies remain scarce. Speculation is soaring, and globalization continues.

The world total production of each of the three major types of grains is projected to increase somewhat this crop year: rice, to increase about 1% to 432 mmt; coarse grains (corn, barley, sorghum, etc.) to rise about 1% to 1,087 mmt; world wheat output, which is rising by the biggest increment of 11%, may reach 676 mmt. This would be a wheat harvest world record, but still below the level of consumption required for the world's "daily bread."

What the forecasts show, is that there may be good results in certain nations that have taken measures to increase grain output, and also had decent weather, such as Russia; but this benefit is in turn, offset by the fall in production in other regions, due to lack of mobilization and/or bad weather. This year's wheat harvest in Russia may hit 57 mmt, up 14% over last year; and 27% over two years ago. However, wheat production will be down in Kazakstan and in some other areas.

The release of the September U.S. Department of Agriculture crop estimates were, as usual, the occasion for a burst of speculation on the Chicago Board of Trade, with wheat futures (December) prices falling, because of the so-called "glut," and other grains' prices rising. The only sane response to this wild trading is to ban food speculation altogether.

The MDG Project and George Soros

On Sept. 11, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon held a press conference at the UN in New York, to release his so-called progress update, "Millennium Development Goals Report 2008," and point to the Sept. 25 MDG Summit, occurring during the week of heads-of-state speeches to the General Assembly.

The MDG project is filthy from beginning to end; it is run, in effect, as a British Foreign Office policy-control operation, serving private financial interests. It was launched in September 2000 with a "Millennium Declaration" at the UN, which committed nations "to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people." Then eight MDG goals were elaborated in March 2002, in a "Monterrey Consensus" among over 100 nations meeting in Mexico. The eight goals: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;

universal primary education; promote gender equality; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS; ensure sustainable environment; and global partnerships for development.

At Monterrey, President George W. Bush announced U.S. money for a "Millennium Challenge Account," and British operatives, billionaire George Soros and Lord Mark Malloch-Brown, then director general of the UN Development Program, gave a press briefing.

Soros began his speech: "One of the main themes of this conference is public/private partnerships . . . because without that, not much progress can be made in eradicating poverty." Besides Soros and Malloch-Brown, the many British boosters of the MDG include former Prime Minister Tony Blair, Prime Minister Gordon Brown, and Sir John Holmes, one of "Tony's Cronies" put in as Under-Secretary to Ban Ki-moon in January 2007, for Humanitarian Affairs.

Now, in the countdown to the Sept. 25 MDG Summit, these networks are working overtime to confine the "issue" of the food crisis, to MDG "Goal No. 1," to reduce hunger.

The MDG idea is for "rich" nations, personages, and companies to fund "partnerships" and interventions in poor nations, and for world markets to prevail, but in a "kindly" fashion. The historical analog is the 18th-Century demand to have the British East India Co. provide chaplains and Bibles to the peoples being looted.

If various public entities (International Monetary Fund, World Bank, World Trade Organization) and private authorities (Soros foundations, NGOs) find that a poor nation's government is practicing approved governance and free trade, that nation might get a token reward; if not, it is to be punished.

U.S. statesman Lyndon LaRouche denounced the entire MDG concept at the time of the Monterrey Conference. He wrote, in March 2002, that the Monterrey Consensus MDG signator nations were committing themselves to continue a policy that "has achieved, today, a potential for mass homicide rivalled only by mass asteroid collisions with Earth, or general thermo-nuclear warfare."

The mass homicide is now to be seen in Haiti, the Horn of Africa, and other locations of desperate food shortages and death. This must stop.

Marcia Merry Baker contributed to this report.