

## **EIR**SpecialReport

# Emergency food for Africa: how to get it there *now*

by Marcia Merry

This *Special Report* presents concrete plans for stopping the mass starvation and collapse now underway in Africa: 1) defining how much of what kinds of foods are needed where; 2) determining the exact means of shipment and distribution; and 3) outlining emergency medical and health measures.

This action program is the only moral and practical approach. Yet all you normally hear about Africa is how wretched and hopeless it has become. Viewing picture after picture of emaciated children, you are supposed to become cynical about whether anything can be done.

The United Nations and international relief agencies add to this pessimism by publishing aid appeals calling for incomprehensible amounts of dollars and tons. You have no idea what this means in terms of crop acreage, food stockpiles, cargo ships, vaccine factories and other real measures of providing emergency help.

The material assembled here is part of an ongoing effort by a number of experts—in farming, transportation, medicine, and other fields—to dispel the lies and that immoral pessimism, and instead to mobilize the hope and know-how to do the job. What is required is a wartime-style commitment to win.

A special feature of this report is a statement by Billy Davis, international farm leader from Mississippi, who is the Agriculture Secretary designate for U.S. presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche. Davis details which political and financial networks are deliberately preventing effective assistance programs in Africa—the same networks which are collaborating with the Soviets to impose drastic reductions in farm and factory output in the Western industrialized nations.

To understand the scope of the disaster in Africa, it is necessary to see how deliberately the World Bank and others are promoting genocidal collapse.

This year the president of the World Bank, A. W. Clausen, chose to go to Kenya on July 11 to release the bank's annual report. Kenya—one of the world's potentially richest upland farm regions—had just been added to the latest U.N. relief agencies' list of 34 African nations now needing emergency food aid.

Clausen insisted that Africa—which by any objective measure is starkly underpopulated—must reduce its population growth, as the only means to “avoid the



*EIR refutes the immoral allegation of the U.N. "relief" agencies that there is no solution to Africa's famine except population control. The U.N. caption to this photo of a starving Ethiopian child reads: "Some countries are already facing serious problems of over-population, manifesting themselves in the form of food shortages, inadequate housing, poor health and education services, and high unemployment rates."*

United Nations/J. Frank

doom" which Parson Thomas Malthus saw as inevitable (see article, page 8). The policies of the World Bank are deliberately depopulating Africa on a scale that means genocide.

As Clausen was speaking, a delegation of African ministerial representatives flew to Geneva, Switzerland, to appeal to the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the international community for urgent aid "to avert the impending economic and social disaster." The memorandum, which was drawn up at a June 18-20 African ministerial council, documented the crisis facing Africa, which, it stressed, was due not only to "widespread, severe, and persistent drought," but also to "the rapidly deteriorating international economic environment."

Like the resolutions of the Cartagena ministerial meeting of Ibero-American countries June 21-22, the African memorandum detailed the devastating effects of debt burdens and low export-commodity prices. It called on the International Monetary Fund to grant a moratorium on loan servicing and repayments, and called for credits to "help reactivate industries." Continuing appeals have been made for emergency food, medicine, and animal husbandry supplies.

Whole nations in East Africa are facing starvation. The April-June harvest in southern Africa failed. There are 150 million people in 34 nations facing death by famine, or severe malnutrition and dislocation. According to the latest U.N. report, the situation has deteriorated rapidly since March. More than 5 million people have left their homes to wander across the continent in search of food and water.

The response so far from the international community has been token emergency aid and complete license to private

and government agencies to continue to implement their Malthusian plans. Just as the international media blacked out the protest of the Cartagena conference against the International Monetary Fund's conditionalities, so the press did not bother to report the news of the African appeal.

The most important case of well-meaning ignorance is President Ronald Reagan. On June 10, the 30th anniversary of the Food for Peace program, the President announced that his administration would launch a "major initiative to help the starving people of Africa." Declaring July 10 "Food for Peace Day," the President said he would call on Congress to establish a special \$50 million fund to help famine victims in the sub-Saharan region of Africa. But this fund, plus the ongoing Food for Peace and other U.S. assistance to Africa totaling over \$150 million, do not represent anything like the mobilization of resources necessary to actually reverse the collapse. All categories of food aid, concessionary food sales, and other programs combined, total no more than *1 million tons* of food from the United States going to areas of emergency need, *when the minimum needed to prevent starvation is over 20 million tons.*

The African crisis points up the lie that there are food "surpluses" in the world, and that food production must be reduced and farmers themselves must go out of business. In reality, grain and other food stocks are so low that selective food shortages will appear in the advanced sector economies by no later than 1986. In addition, control over the shrinking food supply by a handful of cartelized companies is becoming so complete, that food supply manipulation is already at fingertip control—as we shall demonstrate in coming issues.