

is only one-quarter of the amount of grain needed. In addition, Ethiopia needs thousands of tons of milk and corn-soy powder, dried beans, and animal protein to regain strength.

The U.N. Food and Agricultural organization sets the total food aid requirement for Ethiopia at 1.2 to 1.7 million tons this year—much too low. But even by this inadequate measure, only one-quarter is pledged at most.

### Defense vs. food?

Unfortunately, President Reagan did not also announce measures to mobilize to grow more food, or to provide needed logistical infrastructure to ensure that food's rapid distribution where it is most needed.

What is required in Africa, in addition to emergency food tonnages, is a coordinated program of temporary infrastructure development—floating piers, fleets of off-road trucks, emergency sanitation and health facilities. The Soviet Union and the Western

closely over recent years with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to prevent the building of the most simple food and transportation infrastructure in Ethiopia. At the main Ethiopian port of Assab, there is no suction grain discharge to offload bulk carriers, there are no conveyor belts or baggers. There are no portable piers or proper airbag temporary storage. Ships sit in the harbor, waiting in line. The Ethiopian Relief Committee requested that no more food arrive until later in January because it could not be unloaded.

And yet, this fall, for example, the last U.S. company that produced off-road vehicles shut down production for lack of a market. If this infrastructure need is to be met, the industrial production of the advanced-sector nations must be geared up now for rapid export. Thousands of tractors, trucks, and implements are required.

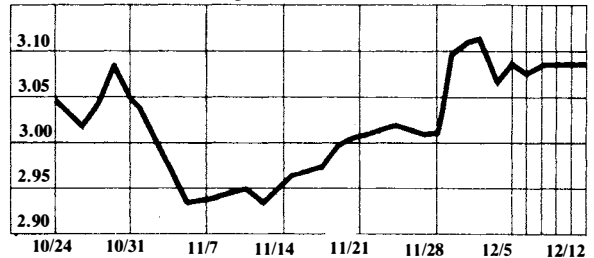
During the first week of December, a group of liberal congressmen also made an announcement. They held a press conference to announce that in January they will ask for an additional \$1 billion in food aid for Ethiopia and Africa. Some of the most cynical backers of forced population reduction are in on the food campaign, such as New York's Rep. Ted Weiss. These are also the most vocal opponents of a strong U.S. defense policy, and may be expected in coming weeks to demand that the additional food-aid monies be taken out of the defense budget.

Ironically, the seed of the solution to the world food problem is found not in the Amstutz-authored agriculture policy, nor in the President's overall economic policy, but in the very defense policy most opposed by the liberals: the Strategic Defense Initiative or beam-weapons program. The last few years of farm income crisis means that the capital stock of those farms still struggling in operation is in very poor condition. The most modern forms of laser and electron-beam welding are needed to mass produce high-quality farm equipment, and these are among the civilian spinoffs of a defense mobilization to build beam weapons.

## Currency Rates

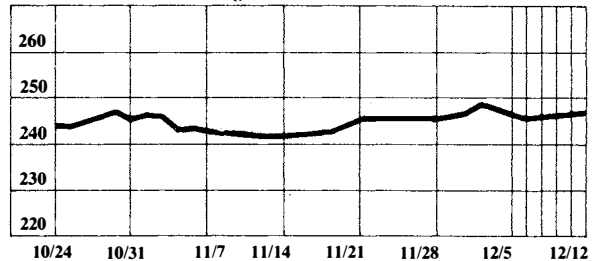
### The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



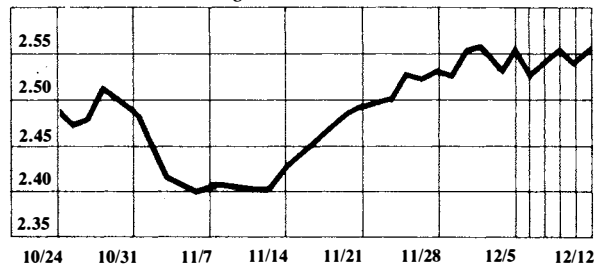
### The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



### The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



### The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing

