
France: Henri Gaulandeau

French farmers face Malthusian enemy

Mr. Gaulandeau is the president of the French Federation of Agriculture (FFA).

The Schiller Institute requested the president of the French Federation of Agriculture to speak at your conference, but above all it is to a European farmer that this request is addressed. And so, the farmer that I am proposes to lay out briefly for you the essential facts of his problems, by projecting them onto the plane of a world economy in deep crisis.

First of all, I must place our movement in the framework of the Western alliance, rejecting any complacency in regard to the backward and greedy Marxist utopias. We are faithful to those generous ideals that value man in a framework in which the state watches over the well-being of all, while respecting the right of each person.

We know our enemies:

One of the very foremost is international high finance, which by its prejudice in favor of the IMF imposes its ukases on so-called developing nations. The dictates of this institution force, by use of blackmail, certain countries to produce substitute products such as manioc or soya, on behalf of the grain trusts' magnates, products that arrive in European harbors without customs duties. These high-protein products, wrung at miserably low prices from the Third World, come to be transformed through European cows, into what is called in Europe a dairy surplus. Those substitute products, which are stolen from the Third World, are competing directly with the grains produced in Europe, and are so driving down prices that they are putting farmers in situations of growing bankruptcy.

Our European governments, their power smothered under the hands of international high finance, are driven into expedient solutions, leading them in a period of unprecedented global famine to take such aberrant decisions as to limit production by means of quotas.

The worst thing is that the Malthusianism imposed on the

Third World has now become the rule in Europe. The watchword of the 12 countries of the European Community when they meet is: "Reabsorption of the surplus." This is understood when one knows that the circle of solvent countries in the world is dangerously receding year by year.

You should know that for a European farmer, some years back, 35 quintals [ca. 220 lbs] of wheat were enough to cover his costs of production; today you need at least 47 quintals, hence all the lands below that threshold are either to lie fallow or to be put to extensive farming. The corollary is reduction of the rural economy, bringing with it desertification, which swells the tide of jobless city-dwellers.

The destruction of this basic fabric of society which is the rural world is drawing us toward a sociological catastrophe which government improvidence ignores, or feigns to ignore.

Man's purpose on earth is to colonize the soil, and the reigning Malthusianism is the absurd antithesis of this.

On the international level, the European farmer is thus subjected to the financial oligarchy, and he suffers the cheating tricks of selfish national interests even within the European Community, to boot.

I must reveal a truth, and take a chance of being struck by the thunder of the ill-informed press. The Western population are fed cheaply. I shall explain. . . .

Let us therefore consider that the balance of the European agricultural economies is largely negative. How can this trend be reversed? How do we get out of this?

The paradox of the agriculture of the European Community is that the farmers are European for their burdens and worldwide for the circulation of their products. Therefore the Community must agree to sacrifices to lighten the burdens of agricultural enterprises, and, on the other hand, around the whole world voices must be raised by leaders determined to stop the looting orchestrated by the financial oligarchy in the countries of the Third World.

They tell us there are no markets for our products in the underdeveloped countries. Their insolvency comes from the fact that they are under the tutelage of the International Monetary Fund and its usurious rates. Let us therefore break the IMF. Let us give the power back to governments so that high finance be controlled in the use of its profits. That these profits rightly go to productive investments in the so-called insolvent countries in order to make them partners instead of targets for racketeering.

In conclusion, planetary Malthusianism cannot but lead to the ruin of the West. A country which is marking time goes backward, a country going backward is reeling toward chaos.

There is only one issue, which is the general development of all of humanity. For that purpose, private interests should cede to the public interest and it is our role, we who are lucid, to open the eyes of our friends, our neighbors. It is to an apostolate that I invite you, so that the Western alliance shall continue to radiate into the world and we drive back forever the hideous visage of totalitarianisms which are setting up their foundations on our own downfall.