

Editorial

Food for thought

When this publication first put out the warnings about an impending international food shortage during the month of July, there was no lack of skeptics. Indeed, all the "authorities" were falling all over themselves to say that, despite the U.S. drought, everything would be all right.

By one week after LaRouche's first television show on this subject on Oct. 1, world developments were daily both dramatizing the hideous reality of that crisis, and portending the future strategic explosions which will result, unless policy is dramatically reversed.

According to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization's Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture, global carryover stocks (reserves) of all world cereals (wheat, corn, rice, etc.) are now forecast to fall by almost 30% from last year to 282 million tons. This, they say, will be the first time in over a decade that "stocks would be below the minimum [17% of total annual consumption] FAO considers necessary to safeguard global food security." Coming from an agency which is infamous for its cynical underestimates of what is needed, this is an alarmist warning indeed.

The FAO is calling for a mobilization to ensure that this shortfall in grain is made up for during the next harvest. But, under current International Monetary Fund policy, this is an impossibility. Set-aside programs are still being implemented in the United States, the drought cycle is not expected to let up next year, and the official policy of the OECD and GATT is above all to eliminate farmers!

The significance of food shortages for the Third World, occurring under IMF policy, is being seen these days in Algeria. There, the country is being wracked by riots which began as a direct result of the IMF-dictated removal of food subsidies. What had been a relatively stable ally of the West, is now facing an upsurge of Islamic fundamentalism, which feeds on economic discontent. The unrest has the potential to spread throughout other North African countries.

Even according to the underestimates of the World

Bank, 100 million Africans suffer from famine. In a report issued at the Sept. 27-29 IMF meeting in Berlin, the World Bank said that "approximately one-quarter of the African population does not consume enough food to permit a normal active life." The World Bank says that this problem affects all of Africa, especially Algeria, but more than half of Africans who go hungry live in the following countries: Ethiopia, Nigeria, Zaire, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, and Mozambique. "Even in countries which have strong growth and large food surpluses, millions of people suffer from malnutrition." Yet, the World Bank's answer to this problem will not be to inject funds, but to push "structural reforms."

As for the major strategic implications of the food crisis for East-West relations, as outlined by LaRouche, they are also becoming more obvious day by day. Review the reports of growing food shortages in the Soviet Union and throughout the entire East bloc, and the attendant unrest.

Although the ethnic crises are getting the most attention, the underlying debt and food issues are driving the upheaval in Yugoslavia and elsewhere. Nor can the Soviets even control the situation inside their own territory. There are reports of food riots in the Soviet republic of Georgia. And recent reports from individuals in touch with Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh, are that there have been new massacres, now that the press have been removed from the scene.

Would anyone doubt that such a regime would shrink from taking military action to secure its food supplies, if it thought that necessary? It may be apocryphal to say that Ligachov inaugurated his new role as head of a special agricultural commission by meeting with the Red Army to discuss invading Western Europe, but that is the direction in which we are headed.

The lunatic Dukakis crowd, which would starve dark-skinned Third World countries and our own citizenry in order to propitiate the Russians, must be defeated at all costs. That is the precondition for changing the food policy, which will otherwise ensure that holocaust ensues.