

Europe 1992: No farmers, no food

In the many official reports and studies about the integrated domestic market of "Europe 1992," the word "agriculture" appears rarely. Probably the bureaucrats deem it wiser not to say too much about the condition of European agriculture, which has already been largely destroyed, as a pilot project for what the European Commission has in mind for other economic sectors.

But the "restructuring" of Europe's agriculture has only just begun. The ultimate goal is that at least 85% of the farms in the European Community will have been forced into bankruptcy or otherwise shut down. Out of today's 750,000 farmers in West Germany, at most only 80,000 are to continue to farm. Instead, large landowners will again emerge, employing tenant farmers and low-paid farm hands, a situation leading directly to a new feudalism.

Part of the plan of the Brussels bureaucrats is to raise taxes across the board. Every farmer and producer will be so burdened with regulations, that he will be drowned under the paperwork alone.

Take the situation for grain production. The heads of state decided at their last European summit to limit the grain harvest of the European Community to 160 million tons. If this amount is exceeded, then the EC will collect a producer tax of 3%—above the 3% which is already collected. But both taxes are due *in advance*. Only if it turns out that the grain yield remains below the upper limit, can the already-taxed farmers apply for a refund on

the taxes they have already paid.

One study commissioned by the EC, "Goal 1992," levels harsh criticism at the current decision-making process, which is deemed too democratic. National agricultural secretaries are accused of introducing too many national viewpoints and interests, all of which, according to the Brussels technocrats, should be eliminated within an integrated domestic market. The study proposes mechanisms for agriculture that would adjust producer prices to "current budget conditions." Then, it specifies, "New decisions by the agriculture secretaries council for implementing this policy will no longer be necessary."

Soviet looting of Europe

With food shortages looming in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the European Community is paying tribute to the East already. This is expected to increase dramatically under the rubric of Europe 1992, as Europe is unified "from the Urals to the Atlantic." Now, as always, the Soviets get what they want from the EC, for token prices: butter for DM 1.80/kg—one-sixth the price that the West German consumer pays; beef for DM 1.50/kg—one-fifteenths of what it costs inside the Community. According to a report in the German newspaper *Bildzeitung*, in 1987, the EC paid DM 6.6 billion in tribute to the East, in the form of subsidized food. And Moscow wants more.

Already, the Bavarian Farmers Association has signed a cooperation treaty with the State Committee for the Agro-Industrial Complex of the Russian Soviet Republic, involving export of new plant varieties, planning and expansion of warehouses and agro-technology centers, and the export of meat and dairy products. West German Agriculture Minister Ignaz Kiechle is seeking similar agreements on the federal level.

the diverse sovereign states.

The second grand goal, toward which we must at least make immense progress even in this century, is the industrialization of space. If we seriously set about work on completing a colony on Mars in approximately the year 2020 as a first step, in the course of this project, we will have solved all the scientific and technological problems necessary for survival on Earth, such as the exploitation of nuclear fusion or biophysics.

No less important is the moral impulse of such a vision directed into the future, and toward overcoming existing limits. Only when people cease to war among themselves on Earth over petty things, and bring their own activity into accord with the lawfulness of the universe in a more fundamental way, will we come closer to that which is human in

us. The great German rocket builder and space scientist, Krafft Ehrlicke, was right when he saw in the "extraterrestrial imperative" the way for humanity to reach the Age of Reason. In today's world, it is of paramount importance for West Germany, Italy, and France together to draw on their great traditions in space science, and define the industrialization of space as one of the goals for peace in Europe.

The answer to the plans for an integrated Europe can only lie in making the role of a Europe of sovereign nations in the world conscious to all people. The great humanist Renaissance of the fifteenth century, which liberated Europe from the Dark Ages of the fourteenth century, and shaped European culture for 500 years, is the proof that even most severe crises can be overcome. Such a humanist and cultural Renaissance is necessary and possible today.