

'Food for Peace' holds European-wide conference in West Germany

by Michael Stalla

"For the Third World, the lack of food supplies already means the spread of regional warfare, banditry, and piracy. The lack of food has become the driving force behind the unexpected uprisings in the East bloc and in the Soviet Union. The resulting tensions are becoming an increasing threat to world peace."

This passage from the final resolution of the international "Food for Peace" conference on Dec. 3-4 in Nauhaim, West Germany, highlights the concern which brought together the conference's 500 participants. Speakers from such diverse nations as the United States, Denmark, and the Philippines went to the podium to deliver situation reports on food production and supplies in their respective countries, and every speech returned to the same theme: There exists a howling discrepancy between food shortages and hunger—not only in many underdeveloped countries, but even in the United States—and the policy of strangling agricultural production being pursued by the European Commission of the European Community, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and supranational institutions such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

And on top of this, shortages are leading quite directly to conflicts which not only bring along with them the destruction of social institutions, but raise the specter of war. Especially the food crisis in the East bloc can quite directly escalate into a military confrontation, as Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the chairman of Patriots for Germany, frankly put it during her opening address on the morning of Dec. 3.

"If the Russians haven't anything to eat, while the West unilaterally disarms itself, what is to prevent an imperialist, chauvinist, aggressive military dictatorship from obtaining its food from where it can still get it—in this case, Western Europe?"

In her lecture, entitled "Transforming Impending Defeat Into Victory," Helga Zepp-LaRouche also specified that the intention of the conference was not to merely join in a chorus of despair. She set an entirely different tone, calling upon the participants in a combative spirit, to overcome this crisis with a resistance movement organized according to the concept of

"People's War."

In addition, the conference discussed the package of "Food for Peace" proposals that Lyndon LaRouche had presented in Berlin on Oct. 12. The Western nations must give up their post-industrial policy of hostility to production, and must return to increasing their industrial and agricultural production. The farmers in the European Community and the United States desire nothing more than to once again be able to produce at fair producers' prices and without bureaucratically dictated quotas. In this way, the West's newly gained strength must be utilized toward realizing two strategic goals, as are laid out in the conference's Final Resolution:

"1) For an immediate halt to the genocide in the Third World, and for finally creating the preconditions for the economic development of the developing sector; and

"2) For the mitigation and overcoming of the hunger crisis in the East bloc and in China, under clearly delineated political and military conditions.

"We demand a policy of 'Food for Peace,' which ensures universal human rights for all nations and for every individual."

In the next speech, Luigi Bogliolo, rector of the Urbaniana Pontifical Academy in Rome, spoke in terms similar to Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche, about world hunger as a moral challenge. In this connection, he laid special stress on the efforts of Pope John Paul II to achieve social justice.

The same problems worldwide

A panel discussion of farmers from the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, the United States, and New Zealand, introduced by Rosa Tennenbaum, coordinator of the Schiller Institute's European Agricultural Commission, with an historical review of the German Peasant Wars and the Prussian Reformers, made it impressively clear that the agricultural situation in each of the countries represented on the panel is equally oppressive and can be traced to a common cause. It was astonishing to see how the German farmers, who attentively followed the presentations, would repeatedly nod in agreement when their

colleague from New Zealand or the United States would report how they have been trapped by high interest rates, bureaucratic regulations, and low producers' prices. They know most of these problems from first-hand experience.

The consequences of these policies were laid out in a shocking speech by Margaret Box, who works with the Urban League in Michigan in the United States. She reported that on Nov. 11, 1988, eighty thousand indebted U.S. farmers received letters from the government informing them that their farms would be foreclosed unless they immediately came up with a plan to pay their debts. At the same time, the distribution-points for food to the needy can no longer get enough food to support hungry families.

Two things stood out in the discussions about how this situation can be turned around. First, many presentations noted that the destruction of the farmer affects not only that sector, but very directly endangers supplies to the consumer. Therefore, it is necessary to draw the entire population into this struggle, since "everyone is a consumer."

The second point was that no one can have any more illusions about the political and professional organizations that have either linked up with the European Commission, GATT, etc., or else have failed to protect the farmer and thus to ensure food production for the future. Rosa Tennenbaum pointed to the heavy responsibility this placed on those assembled at the conference: "Today, only we, the Schiller Institute, represent the continuity from the Peasant War, through the Prussian Reforms, and extending into the future. Parties and institutions have all once again buckled under pressure. We can expect little or nothing from anyone outside of ourselves. Today, we who are sitting here, must be the vom Steins; we must be what Joss Fritz, the brilliant head of the *Bundschuh*, what Wendel Hippler was for the Peasant War. We must become the 'resisters,' the 'movers.' If we decide to do so, then victory will be ours."

Political consequences

Gen. Friedrich Wilhelm Grunewald (ret.), from the executive committee of the Patriots for Germany, and *EIR*'s Konstantin George went into the strategic dimensions of the food crisis in the East bloc. Failed harvests, high rates of spoilage during storage and transport, and the lack of adequate food-processing facilities are forcing the Soviets to rely on record amounts of food shipments from the West. Western financial circles are prepared, in the framework of their "New Yalta" policy, to support the Moscow dictatorship with tribute-payments. Nevertheless, it would be naive, George warned, to see this as normal trade. In view of the economic crisis in the West, Moscow is systematically preparing to obtain by force whatever the West does not provide voluntarily. General Grunewald used a series of examples to show how the West is becoming ever less willing and able to resist a military threat from the East.

Zbigniew Dziakowski from the Polish Exile Movement

Food for Peace was the target of a new coalition of KGB tools on the eve of its third international conference, which began in Chicago Dec. 10. On Dec. 9, a new grouping, made up of the National Council of Churches, the American Jewish Committee, and "Prairie Fire," held a well-publicized press conference to denounce the organizing of Food for Peace. The National Council of Churches (see *Investigation*, this issue,) functions as a conduit for funds to terrorist-linked fronts around the world; Prairie Fire is closely tied to the Washington, D.C. Institute for Policy Studies, the main U.S. think tank justifying terrorism since the 1960s. It appears that this curious leftist alliance has swung into action to defend the food cartel which is out to destroy world farming and world food supplies.

greeted Lyndon LaRouche's proposal to tie food aid to the Soviets to such political conditions as the reconstruction of Poland's economy. Only a strengthening of private agricultural enterprises can ensure adequate food supplies for the Polish people. Up to now, he said, the Polish government has utterly failed to make effective reforms possible.

The situation in the Third World countries was detailed by representatives from the embassies of Bangladesh and the Philippines, a representative of the Angolan resistance movement UNITA, and another from the Mozambique opposition movement CUNIMO. They all called upon the industrialized countries to support them with food and in the building up of their own domestic agricultural base. At the same time, their presentations laid out how the "food weapon" is used to foster the spread of communism. The representative from the Philippines embassy described in minute detail, how the communists deliberately create food shortages and hunger in order to destabilize the government and prepare for its overthrow.

A more optimistic picture was presented by Juan Rebaza, director of the Peruvian fishing firm Pesca-Peru, on how he was able to overcome many hurdles he encountered in pulling his fish-processing firm out of the red, and making it into an earner of foreign exchange for his country. He did this with very little help from other countries. Peru wasn't even able to prevent other nations such as the Soviet Union from fishing off its coast, since Peru started out with no ships of its own.

At the end of the conference, other resolutions were passed in addition to the main one, including: rejection of the "Europe 1992" project, a demand to revoke exaggerated environmental regulations, a demand for food assistance and support for the building of democratic governments in Africa, and finally, the participants supported the "Declaration of Honor for Lyndon LaRouche." There was also a discussion of who would go as a representative of the European farmers to the Food for Peace conference in Chicago on Dec. 10-11.