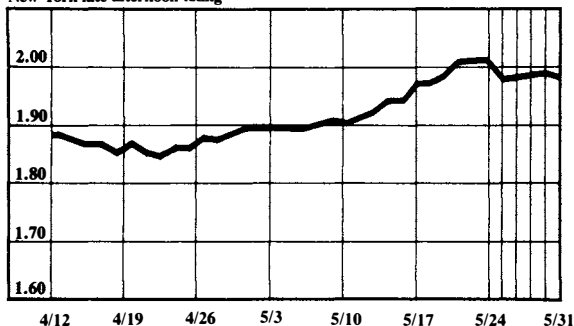


Currency Rates

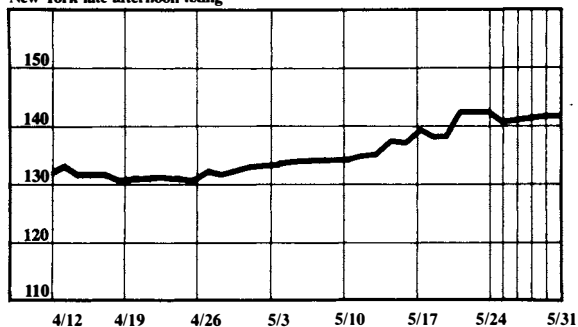
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



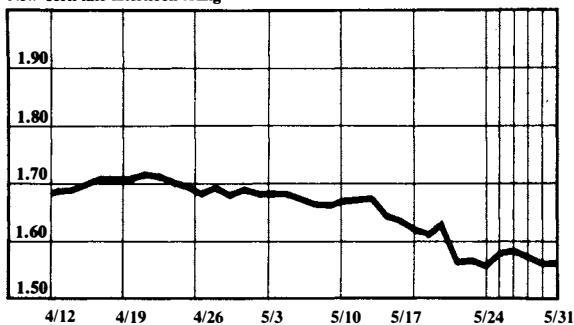
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



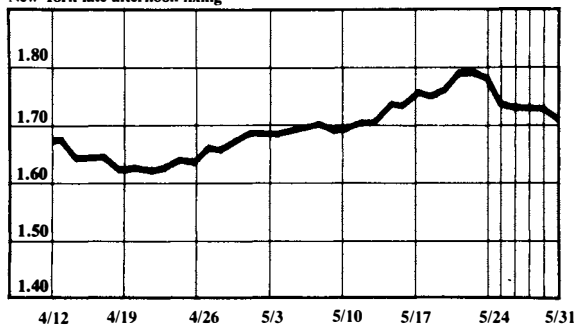
The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



512 million have died of hunger this decade

by Marcia Merry

On May 22, the World Food Council opened a four-day international conference in Cairo, Egypt on world hunger. Although the proceedings have not been publicized in the general press, the wire services reported the message to the conference from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, sounding the alarm over world food shortages.

In a speech read on his behalf, President Mubarak said that 512 million people have died of hunger so far in this decade alone. He called for the industrialized nations to forgive some foreign debt of Third World nations, in order to finance food projects. In the prepared text, according to Reuters wire service, Mubarak said, "I hope your conference will be able to have contacts with the industrialized countries to give up a percentage of debts owed by the Third World countries to finance food projects."

The World Food Council is a U.N.-affiliated body. In April this year, it met in Rome with the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization and other agencies. At that meeting, James Ingram, head of the WFC, said that today there are 500 million people worldwide who are malnourished. The Rome group set the May 22 Cairo meeting to address the "political" issues behind hunger.

What these grim figures show is that almost 20% of the human race has been forced into hunger in this decade, and millions have died of starvation, due to the catastrophic decline in food availability per person, and the precipitous decline in the capacity to produce food. This crisis situation shows that the human race itself is threatened with self-extermination because of the moral lassitude in those parts of the world with the ability to reverse the crisis, and because of the self-feeding process of biological collapse.

The situation on the continent of Africa manifests the horror of the crisis. About one out of every four Africans depends on food imports, despite the vast fertility and potential fertility of the continent's soils. This decline and food dependency reflects the decades of World Bank and International Monetary Fund denial of agricultural, industrial, and infrastructural development projects (irrigation, transport grids, etc.).

Hard hit for food at present are the Mediterranean littoral nations of North Africa. Although last year's cereals harvest rose to 78.8 million tons—an increase of more than 18% over the previous year—the North African nations' harvests declined from a combination of drought, locusts, and other factors. There have been food riots in Algeria and Tunisia.

Egypt alone has imported nearly 6.2 million tons of wheat and coarse grains for the 1988-89 season. This is nearly one-third of all African cereals imports for this period. Tunisia and Algeria had to sharply increase cereals imports in 1988.

Grain import prices have skyrocketed since the 1988 drought in the North American breadbasket and the huge flow of scarce world food to the Soviet Union. Compared to last year, export prices of wheat and corn from the U.S. are 38% and 30% higher, respectively. Thai rice exports are up 9% over last year at this time. U.N. officials estimate that in two decades, Africa will have to spend over \$28.5 billion a year on food imports, when its own cash crops (cocoa, coffee, tea, etc.) at that time might only bring \$12 billion a year.

At the same time, food aid is being drastically cut by the United States and other donor nations. Overall, the World Food Program (U.N.-affiliated) has pledged of only 9.7 million tons of cereals this year to use for world food assistance, when the annual goal is 10 million tons; and in recent years, 11 to 13 million tons of cereal grains were distributed annually for relief.

In April this year, world attention was focused on a special food mobilization for Sudan, where a goal of 170,000 tons of food relief shipments for the month was set, in order to avert an anticipated death toll this year of 100,000 people. Last year, 250,000 people died from starvation in Sudan,

where today, at least 2 million people are severely malnourished.

Speaking at the WFC's Cairo meeting, Egyptian Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Premier Youssef Walley said that there is no alternative to redoubling agricultural production in Africa. Walley pointed to the need for new policies for rapid application of technologies, and for developing the human and material resources to produce more food. He said that the matter will have the utmost significance if the predictions of widespread food shortages prove accurate.

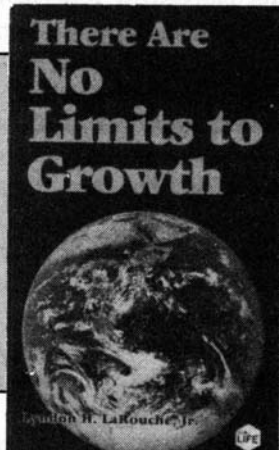
But U.N. food agencies, permeated by malthusianism, are making proposals that only ensure more malnutrition and starvation. At the April meeting of the U.N. Commission for Africa, officials adopted "The African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programs," calling for Africans to give up "imitative modernism" in terms of Western food preferences (beer, wheat bread, etc.). Wheat, oats, barley, rice, and such grains for bread and beer, are inappropriate for Africa, where yam, cassava, corn, sorghum, and millet should be grown.

The World Bank earlier this spring issued a ridiculous report on the great "progress" being made in economic development in Africa. To the Robert McNamara-type accountants at the bank, human life is of no concern if debt payments are being made.

Overpopulation Isn't Killing the World's Forests—the Malthusians Are

There Are No Limits to Growth

by
Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.



Order from: **Ben Franklin Booksellers, Inc.**

27 S. King St. Leesburg, Va. 22075 (703) 777-3661

\$4.95 plus \$1.50 shipping (\$.50 for each additional book)
MC, Visa, Diners, Carte Blanche, and American Express accepted.
Bulk rates available

MIDDLE EAST INSIDER

Weekly Confidential Newsletter

Executive Intelligence Review has been the authority on Middle East affairs for a decade. In 1978, *EIR* presented a coherent profile of the "Islamic fundamentalist" phenomenon. *EIR* had the inside story of the Irangate scandal before anyone else: In 1980, *EIR* exposed the late Cyrus Hashemi as the Iranian intelligence man in Washington, organizing arms deals and terror.

Middle East Insider, created in November 1986, brings you:

- **the inside story of U.S. Mideast policy**
- **what the Soviets are really doing in the region**
- **confidential reports from inside the Middle East and North Africa that no one else dares to publish**
- **accuracy on the latest terror actions and terrorist groups**

A subscription also includes a "hot line," where you can call for more information on any item we publish.

Yearly subscription at 5000-DM. Write or call: Middle East Insider c/o EIR Dotzheimerstr. 166, P.O. Box 2308, 62 Wiesbaden F.R.G. Tel: (6121) 88 40. In the U.S., write to: EIRNS, P.O. Box 17390, Washington, D.C. 20041-0390.