

# 'Let us produce food and feed Africa': American farmers on European tour

by Garance Upham Phau

Two American farm leaders, Billy Davis from Mississippi and Don Scott from Ohio, are now on a tour of Europe along with two experts on African economic problems, to organize action on an emergency program for supplying a devastated Africa's food needs and at the same time reversing the collapse of agriculture in the United States and the European Community. The tour includes the cities of Rome, Paris, Rouen, Bonn, Münster, Wiesbaden, Stockholm, and Copenhagen; it takes place as Europe's farmers—perhaps the angriest and also the least communist-influenced on the continent—are in an uproar over the European Community's contractionary agricultural policy.

Billy Davis is an eighth-generation farmer, a nationally prominent agriculture spokesman, and the Secretary of Agriculture-designate in a Lyndon LaRouche presidential administration. Don Scott, a seventh-generation farmer from Ohio, won the U.S. congressional nomination for Ohio's seventh district in the May 8 Democratic Party primary with 60%-plus support. Davis and Scott are accompanied by Uwe Friesecke, a leader of the Club of Life, expert on development projects and candidate of the European Labor Party for the June European parliamentary elections, and by Reverend M'Dibala M'Polesha, representing the Eucumenical movement of Zaire and also a founding member of the Club of Life.

The visitors addressed audiences of 20 to 70 people in Rome, Paris, Rouen, Brussels, and Bonn. In the audience were farmers, businessmen, workers, and housewives, as well as representatives from African nations and student groups. They met farm leaders and government representatives.

"We are in Europe on a mission," said Billy Davis, in Paris, outlining an emergency action program to:

- 1) restore the conditions (including credit) necessary for farmers in America and in the European nations to relaunch production and stop the advanced stage of disintegration of agriculture throughout the entire developed sector;
- 2) enact such bilateral agreements as are required to ship food surpluses to Africa now, along with the infrastructure needed for Africans to expand and upgrade their own production.

## Why relief programs have failed

Uwe Friesecke took up the question why every past and present program for food relief by international agencies such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has failed. "One hundred and fifty million Africans are threatened in the 24 most affected African nations today," said Friesecke. "FAO proposes to ship only 3.5 million tons of cereal, which would give to the Africans who are most threatened now less than the average food intake for the continent as a whole.

"The fact that the FAO has no intention of solving the hunger problem is shown in its own program. It envisions two scenarios: One expects 500 million individuals to be starving by the year 2000, the other envisions one billion to be starving in 2000. What program for solving hunger is this which plans for a billion human beings to go hungry?"

"The truth is that the FAO and the U.N. keep the African representatives hopelessly entangled in bureaucratic discussions while the IMF, the World Bank, and other institutions promoting usury carry out their genocidal work of destroying what is left of the economy of those nations."

What must be done today is to ship the existing food surplus amounting to 25 to 30 million tons of cereals to the most affected nations and to restore production in the advanced sector so that the same amount will be shippable next year. Furthermore, Africa must be provided with the infrastructural means to deliver the food to the countryside where the people live.

"All the existing programs destroy the fabric of society, the villages, by setting up camps where the African farmers must come to get food, abandoning what little production they had. What we must do instead is deliver trucks, vehicles, ships, and help the Africans build the railways, roads, and ports in a military fashion to carry the food to each and every village. This will create an infrastructure that will allow the Africans to uplift their own economy, to begin cultivating the millions and millions of acres of arable land with the level of labor productivity reached by the advanced sector."

M'Polesha proceeded to challenge several misconceptions about Africa. He observed that, according to the Bible, civilization first arose in Africa, which in times of antiquity

was a flourishing area—the Greeks, Jews, and Romans who traveled there bearing witness to that fact. The problem is that Africa never was freed from colonialism. Today, he declared, we must liberate Africa from the International Monetary Fund to allow her to cultivate the acreage which only needs a qualified labor force. Like Friesecke, M'Polesha spoke of the need to develop African cadre, agronomists, and engineers to employ the technology that would be initially sent there by more developed nations.

"The word development," said M'Polesha, "comes from the verb to develop; biologically speaking, to develop means to go from the embryonic state, the egg, to grow, to become adult. And to become adult means to grow. It is the same of a nation. A developed country is one that grows, gets greater, becomes adult." If the nations of western Europe and America shrink their economies and strangle their labor forces, they are no longer developed nations by that definition of the term.

The destruction of American farming and the need for citizens to take matters into their own hands were described by Scott and Davis.

### The response in Europe

The delegation met with Italian Undersecretary of Agriculture Zurlo following which the Italian Agriculture Ministry in Rome put out a press release expressing agreement with the program presented by the farmers. "The necessity of bilateral agreements between the American government, the EC, and African countries for the export of agricultural sur-

pluses to starving regions. . . . The establishment of a world parity price that would allow expansion in Western agricultural production . . . were the topics of discussion," said the communiqué. "The exchange of ideas in depth ended with a substantial convergence of strategies necessary to fight hunger. . . ."

In particular, Undersecretary Zurlo declared himself convinced of the necessity to reach an agreement between the EC and the United States on a program for expanded food production.

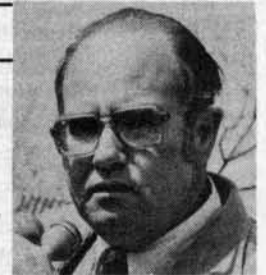
In Bonn, 33 press representative came to the press conference, and all over Europe the delegation's visitors had the opportunity to speak to the media and make their programs public. Agence France Presse, Ouest France, Germany's WDR radio, FNP, *Die Welt*, DPA, Agra Europe, Europa Redaktion, several Third World agencies, and Reuters were briefed on the crisis in American farming and the need for joint European-American action.

In Brussels, a rally took place in front of the EC headquarters to deliver the Club of Life's message. And from France have come reports of an unprecedented response from farmers to this initiative. In Normandy, a meeting has been called to discuss with European Labor Party leaders the state of agriculture in France and how a campaign can be launched for French farmers to link up with their American counterparts. One of the farmers is a member of the Order of the Cincinnati, a descendant of one of the officers who accompanied the Marquis de Lafayette to America to fight for the American Revolution.

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## Billy Davis

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# U.S.-European trade war is 'folly'

*At the Club of Life Paris conference on the international food emergency on June 8, U.S. farm leader Billy Davis described the need for European farmers to ally with U.S. farmers to save advanced-sector agriculture and feed a starving Africa. We reproduce here excerpts from his statements in Paris.*

We are in Europe on a fourfold mission predicated upon the simple moral principle that we are our brother's keeper and as such must immediately counter the absolutely immoral position of the FAO and other U.N. organizations that are systematically destroying the continent of Africa, most of Ibero-America, and southern Asia through their instrumentality, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and its agent Henry A. Kissinger.

We say that it is sheer folly for the Western nations to pit their populations economically and morally one against the other in fictitiously created trade wars, when 70% of the world by our standards is malnourished and represents a market which we must address on two fronts:

- that of emergency food aid to those nations whose day to day survival is in danger, such as Mozambique;
- that of delivering to those countries the infrastructural elements that will both establish the conditions by which they themselves, without help, begin developing their countries along the lines which established the U.S.A. in its original form, and provide the technology and supportive educational institutions necessary to mobilize the populations of the respective recipient republics.

## A four-point program

Our mission endeavors to do the following:

1) To research and initiate bilateral agreements between the African nations and countries within the Western sector, especially the EC, and the United States, so that in the short-term emergency situation there begins a deployment of food to Africa with the efficiency and speediness realized by military exercises in times of war, for the situation in Africa is akin to a war-devastated area.

2) To begin dialogue among contacts throughout the European countries, jointly with American producers, for the formation of studies directed toward the establishment of a *system of parity* in trade among nations as well as the various productive sectors of the respective nations, i.e., agriculture, steel, etc.

3) To begin a liaison between farmers of the American, European, and African nations with the intent of solidifying a task-oriented project, that of solving common problems in agriculture, exchanging technical information in the spirit of friendship and common interest, such as was exhibited between General de Gaulle and General MacArthur.

4) To establish an *emergency commission* of the essential expertise in production, logistics, and infrastructural development directed toward the long-term development in Least-Developed Nations (LDCs) with emphasis on Africa for both the implementation of the emergency relief measures and long-term development.

French farmers have now reached the stage, along with their European brethren, which American farmers were in at the onset of 1979, as witness the destruction of notably milk production. European Community [EC] agriculture is caught in the same exact scenario as that which brought the American farmers to their deathbed, and action must be taken now if the process of destruction is to be stopped.

American farmers were targeted first, and the background was established in the mid-1950s to late-1960s when, through artifice, those who wanted to destroy farming, through propaganda and other means, through very lenient credit conditions, built a false sense of security in the American farmer—that somehow there was a vast market into which he could pour his products, without any concern as to how this production was to be sold. Every acre in sight was farmed. Then, with a massive production generator in place, farmers were put in a position where, because the lack of surplus capital within their sector of society, they were forced into the easy credit market to drive the production engine.

In August 1974, through the influence of the international banking community which interfaces with the Chicago Board of Trade as well as Brussels', London's, and Zürich's commodity market, the American cattle market was broken suddenly and without warning. *Within hours, the price per pound of slaughtered cattle went from 84.00 cents to 8.10 cents!*

During the succeeding two years, every commodity, be-

ginning with feed grain and even the vegetable market, collapsed in successive order as if they were dominos. Suddenly the farmer was no longer a welcome individual at lending institutions. Those who chose to continue were told by propaganda means that they were bad managers—that they themselves as individuals caused the problem! And farmers were pitted against each other as wolves fighting over a diminishing carcass.

The Eastern wheat farmer was told it was the fault of the Western wheat farmer, the Southern corn farmer was pitted against the Northern farmer as today the French against the Irish. Now, for example, there is propaganda blaming Brazil for the fall in soya prices, though Brazil produces less than the state of Arkansas, itself the tenth in the United States for soya production. We saw recently your Agriculture Minister Michel Rocard in the United States advocating free trade and the removal of every farm support policy in the EC and America!

European farmers will note the similarity of the scenario with their present plight, but the situation gets worse from there.

To continue farming, farmers were told by the lenders that, since they were such bad managers, they would (out of the goodness of their heart) again lend them money, but the lenders would have to have everything of value as collateral, particularly his land, with a ratio of two to one—loans with twice the amount in land collateral. This ridiculous situation unfolded—they went so far as to give them conditions under which they must operate their farms, i.e., which crop to plant or not to plant based on the experts and commodity traders, who held the farmer in actual contempt.

Simultaneously, an artificial land bubble began to grow, generated by real-estate speculators, so that the value of the land over the next three to four years skyrocketed, allowing a situation to develop where additional credit could be extended into agriculture with a gradual creeping up of interest rates. From the farmer's standpoint, participation in a higher debt-to-asset ratio was justified by false hopes generated by those same speculators, experts, and officials faithfully promising him—and showing their statistics—to indicate next year would be a much better year, and therefore would reduce his debt.

This practice of debt rollover and bridge loan techniques with each year bringing in more stringent conditionalities lasted for three to five years, depending on the commodity specialty of the farmer. However, in October of 1979, through the help of the alleged peanut farmer President Carter, Paul Volcker became chairman of the independent American Federal Reserve System. Volcker, over a period of just a few weeks, shot the American interest rates from the 8 to 9% range up to as high as 22¾% per year. Not only was this a devastating blow to the agricultural sector, it was equally a devastating blow to the entire capital-goods sector of the United States with steel as the main secondary target, much

as we see in your country of France today.

Meanwhile the real-estate bubble on land values has burst. We now have in the United States wholesale foreclosure and bankruptcies. The collective agricultural debt, during this 10 years grew from \$25 billion to \$250 billion, and if one takes U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates of \$16-\$18 billion net profit from American agriculture for 1984 and calculates the current rate of interest in agriculture at 14%, one can easily see that not only can we not service our debt, we cannot even pay the interest on the debt, and have not been able to do so since 1980.

### The alarming figures

American agriculture for the crop year of 1983, due to government agricultural programs such as PIK [Payment in Kind]—payments not to produce—combined with a devastating drought, is going under:

For example: Corn production for 1983 is down 48% which means a 24% decrease in world production; soybean production down 36%, 22% in terms of world production. Feed grain production down 44%, which means a reduction of 2 million head of cattle.

America today is a net importer of beef, since 54% of all beef consumption in the United States is imported! Land value has now plummeted just as our cattle market did in 1974, so that those few farmers who were surprisingly able to survive all these years are suddenly realizing that their assets-to-liability financial statement makes them technically, legally bankrupt through no fault of their own.

The agricultural cooperatives have been dealt such a financial blow that they now either have gone under or in fact have been taken over by the international grain cartel such as Continental Grain, Cargill, Laparouse, and Occidental Petroleum. The international banking cartel has in like fashion taken over control of the normal agricultural lending institutions such as productive credit associations and the federal land banks, now a mere façade of their own original farmer-owned structure.

American agriculture is now in the stage of final collapse, and when one considers that those [PIK-style and price-support phase-out] programs are still in place in even stricter form, along with NASA long-range weather forecasts predicting another bad year, then we see that we now approach the loss of the potential to regain control over our own productivity.

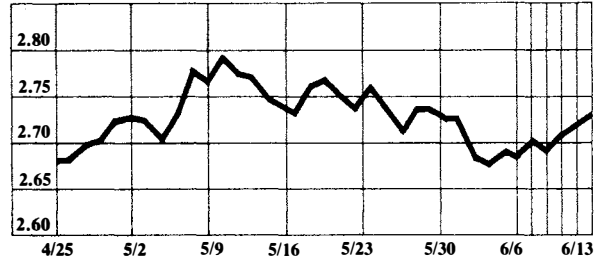
The above scenario is given for consideration by the European farm sector so that they may determine the exact position their respective nation is in as of this moment.

This scenario, with minor exceptions, has not changed in 3,000 years of written history. The destruction of the capabilities and potentialities of humankind has always and is today orchestrated by variations of the same oligarchical structure that not only brought about the Dark Ages but initiated and orchestrated two world wars.

## Currency Rates

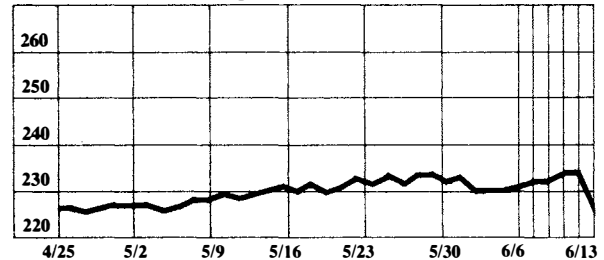
### The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



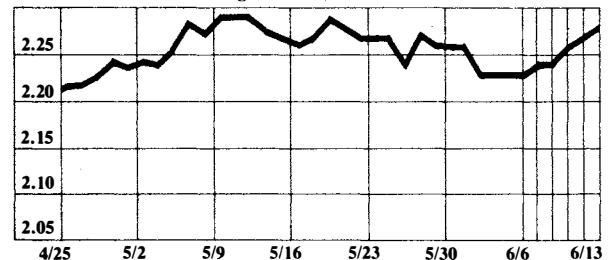
### The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



### The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



### The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing

