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## Locust Disaster

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# Schiller Institute: Africa needs more big-plane spraying

"In Senegal the locust threat is under control, thanks to the spraying done by the United States," a representative from the embassy of Senegal said at a Schiller Institute press conference in Washington, D.C. Sept. 24. Senegal is the only country to date where large-scale aerial spraying has taken place. Four commercial DC-7s, paid for by the U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, sprayed 900,000 acres infested with grasshoppers in early September.

Senegal was one of four African countries represented at the press conference, where the Schiller Institute issued a call for a large-scale military-style U.S. program to ensure the eradication of the locusts and grasshoppers now threatening Africa's food supply.

Opening the press conference, Mrs. Carol White read a quotation from Lord Bertrand Russell, in which he said: "If a black death could spread throughout the world once in every generation, survivors could procreate freely without making the world too full. The state of affairs might be unpleasant, but what of it?" This, Mrs. White said, is precisely the policy being advocated and carried out by the U.N. in Africa today. "An error of judgment here will result in a half-billion people being killed."

Mrs. White read a statement by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the Schiller Institute's founder, in which she said the locust plague in Africa was a challenge to whether the West has the "moral fitness to survive." Pointing to recent statements by French government officials on the need to try terrorists under a Nuremberg Tribunal, Mrs. LaRouche wholeheartedly endorsed a reconvening of a Nuremberg Tribunal and called for its extension to try those plotting the death of the continent of Africa.

### Large-scale effort needed

Marjorie Hecht then outlined what a successful locust-fighting program would look like. "The media has been silent on the extent of this potential disaster, while the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization as well as the U.S. State Department continues to assert that everything is 'under control,'" she said. "But everything is not under control, as a country-by-country survey shows. There is already crop damage, and more is certain, given the FAO policy not to use big planes and not to spray the grasslands where locusts

and grasshoppers are breeding. The current FAO policy, apparently supported by the United States agencies involved, will guarantee the locust and grasshopper infestation for years to come, guarantee famine, guarantee genocide, and guarantee the acceleration of desertification in the Sahel.

"This situation is reversible. In the United States we routinely spray about 13 million acres a year to control the grasshopper infestation in the grasslands. This could be done in Africa—if the international agencies including the FAO, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank, had not already determined that Africa was 'overpopulated,' that the so-called carrying capacity of Africa had reached its limit. The problem is that these agencies have already written off the continent of Africa and its 582 million people. If this were not the case, then the regional locust control groups in Africa would have been fully funded and actively monitoring the situation so that it would not have gone out of control. Africa would also have had the kinds of development and infrastructure projects that are necessary to ensure self-sufficiency in food and industrial development.

"Locusts and grasshoppers have voracious appetites and breed very quickly, each generation becoming 10 times the size of the last one. They also can migrate over large areas, laying the eggs for subsequent generations along the way. This is a situation that cannot wait for endless bureaucratic fact-finding. A big-plane, large-scale effort is needed now."

Mrs. Hecht announced that she had a message from pilot Woody Grantham, whose Arizona-based T&G Aviation had supplied the DC-7s paid for by the U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance in Senegal and who just returned from Dakar. The four planes sprayed malathion on 900,000 acres in six days, flying only in the early morning hours each day. "Our effort was 95% to 100% successful," Grantham said. "This was the best and only effort to this date by any nation. It should be a starting point for the rest of the continent. We could really do a good job, and we are ready and willing to carry on."

The Schiller Institute provided extensive documentation of the situation in Africa, including a 9-page transcript of an interview with a senior officer at the FAO Emergency Center for Locust Operations in Rome calling for a small-scale effort and a 10-page transcript of the interview that follows.