To acquire food, some nations could only go into debt, and hope for aid. The current account deficit for 25 African nations grew from $1 billion in 1970, to $13.8 billion in 1983. In 1983, Nigeria's deficit stood at $4.188 billion, and Egypt's amounted to $3.544 billion.

Debt service as a percent of the value of exports rose dramatically between 1970 and 1984. For Kenya, from 5.4% to 22.9%; for Somalia, from 2% to 29%; for Morocco, from 8.5% to 38%; for Nigeria, from 4% to 30%; for Egypt, from 4.4% to 80%.

Egypt, not included in the bar diagram countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, is the largest recipient of food aid in the world. The 1974 Camp David accords mandated sending 2.5 million tons of food annually. In 1978, Egypt's food aid of 3 million tons peaked at 50% of total food imports. Since then, Egypt has imported more food annually, and received less food aid—down to 2 million tons in 1985. Similarly, for Morocco, food aid represented 97% of all food imports in 1972, then food aid decreased, and imports increased. In Tunisia the same pattern prevailed.

At present, in these nations and others, if the means to commercially import, as well as the availability to food aid is cut off at the same time, then the consequence is political disintegration and death. There have been food riots and strikes in Egypt since 1980, in Tunisia and Morocco in 1984; and in the Sudan in 1985.

In 1986, Nigeria limited debt repayment to what the government felt the economy could bear. In May, 1986, at a special session of the U.N. General Assembly on economic problems of Africa, African nations requested $45.6 billion in additional aid (in contrast to the 1985 level of $7 billion in aid), and $35-55 billion worth of new debt relief for 1986-90. So far, the response from the West has been rhetoric about "the market place" from President Reagan and the State Department, and continued backing for the deadly World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

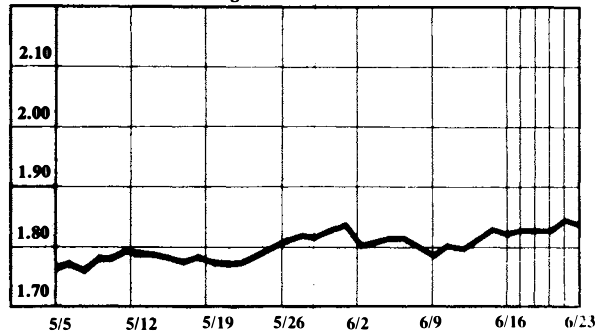
Point of no return

The continent of Africa is undergoing genocide. The debt is unpayable. Emergency quantities of food cannot be produced in the circumstances of the collapse. There is no "magical marketplace" for current African exports. The proposal of a "Marshall Plan" approach, by the EC and allied Western nations, is the only means to reverse the disaster. Emergency food aid quantities can be determined and met out of remaining "surplus" stocks in Europe, North America, and other points of reserves. Quantities for the next five years—including animal stocks—can be determined, and commissioned from both African and food-exporting nations farms—in a high-technology "contract victory garden" approach. Simultaneously, building projects for emergency and long-term logistics infrastructure can be initiated to provide the basis for rebuilding and developing the continent out of the shame and misery of the AIDS and starvation holocaust.

Currency Rates

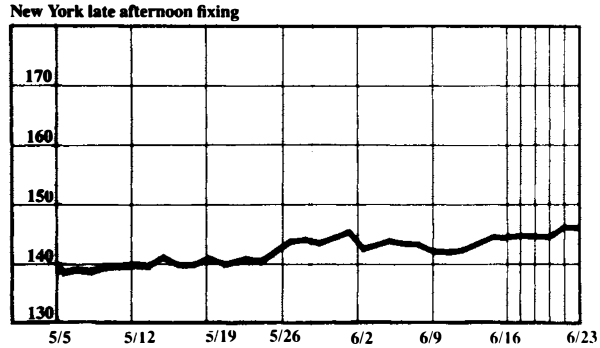
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



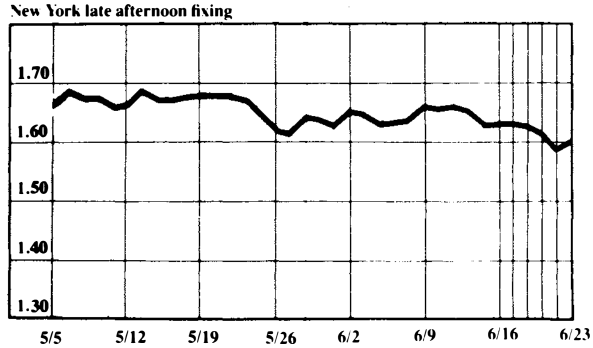
The dollar in yen

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