

## Editorial

### *The world food crisis*

Unless the current policies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the European Community (EC) bureaucracy are stopped, and replaced with an emergency world food program, not only will hundreds of millions of human beings be threatened with death by starvation, but a worldwide food shortage will threaten world peace in the most dramatic way.

Hundreds of millions of people in Africa, Asia, and Latin America have already died either of hunger or undernourishment. Yet the United States and the EC Commission continue their brutal reductions in farm capacity, under the pretext that there exists agricultural "overproduction." By measures ranging from forced price reductions for farm products, to contingency schemes, and senseless and destructive environmental restrictions, so much land has been taken out of production that today we are on the brink of a world food crisis of immense proportions.

This world food shortage threatens to wipe out entire developing-sector nations, while in the so-called industrialized nations, a growing army of poor, retired, and unemployed people faces hunger and undernourishment. The blame for this situation lies less with the incompetence of the responsible policymakers, than with a deliberate policy carried out by the food cartel and other international financial forces, who see the instigation of food shortages as a means to increase their own power, and to introduce a new era of feudal conditions. By their schemes, the relatively independent family farm is to vanish, and ex-farmers are to become employed, at far lower wages, in their new agro-industrial complexes.

In the United States, almost half of all family farms have already been lost, and in Western Europe approximately one-third, not only ending an economic livelihood for these farming families, but also cynically depriving many generations of their lives' purpose: All the improvements, all the effort they put in over generations, are gone at a single stroke, and through no fault of their own.

Up to now, the farmers' despair has remained largely hidden from the general public, because the mass

media prefer to stir up hostility against farmers by peddling fairy tales about "overproduction" and farmers' alleged anti-environmentalism. But for anyone who has believed that food grows in the supermarket, it's high time to get concerned about defending our agriculture. People have to eat, otherwise they can't live, and they must consume a well-balanced, nutritious diet in order to remain healthy and physically and mentally active.

The food shortage is also the gravest threat to world peace. Food imports from abroad sustain not only India and the People's Republic of China, but also the Soviet bloc, where the food crisis now looms as the most explosive political factor.

Since 1972, the East bloc's import dependency upon the West has risen steadily, and yet, the hunger catastrophe has worsened in many countries, such as Romania. The West, under the "New Yalta" agreement, continues to send the East bloc huge quantities of food, subsidized by millions of Western tax dollars. But what will happen if the food shortages created by the cartel and the banks make it objectively impossible to continue these shipments? If the hunger-inspired social uprisings in the East bloc increase, won't the Soviet *nomenklatura* be tempted to obtain food supplies from the West by military force—especially when the West, in a suicidal fit, has already disarmed itself?

Our leading institutions are not only responsible for this crisis, but now, in the face of the looming catastrophe, they are pigheadedly refusing to implement urgently needed reforms. It is therefore up to the victimized citizenry to recruit a new republican leadership which will end despotism and which will defend individual freedom. What we need is a movement of patriots of various nations, conscious of their own responsibility, who today can act in the same spirit that inspired the Founding Fathers and the Declaration of Independence, and which Friedrich Schiller held up as a shining example in his freedom-drama *William Tell*.

Then, it was the tyranny of the British colonial masters which had to be crushed; now, it is the stranglehold of the banks and the cartels, which must be broken.