

Humphrey

TOWARD A NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
FOOD POLICY

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

IN THE YEAR 1793, THOMAS MALTHUS PREDICTED THAT
MAN WOULD BREED HIMSELF INTO A CORNER OF MISERY BY IN-
CREASING HIS NUMBERS BEYOND HIS ABILITY TO FEED HIMSELF.

WHILE HISTORICALLY THIS THEORY HAS BEEN SUBJECTED
TO OCCASIONAL DEBATE, THE ADVANCES OF SCIENCE AND THE
GENERAL BELIEF THAT THE WORLD'S NATURAL RESOURCES
ARE UNLIMITED, HAVE RESULTED IN ITS BEING GIVEN LITTLE
SERIOUS ATTENTION.

HOWEVER, DURING THE PAST DECADE, SCHOLARS, SCIENTISTS, SOCIAL PLANNERS AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS, HAVE BEGUN A RE-EXAMINATION OF THE BASIC PROCESS UNDERLINING THIS THEORY -- THE EVER SHRINKING RATIO OF PEOPLE TO RESOURCES. AND WHILE IT MAY COME AS A SHOCK TO SOME OF US, WE, ALONG WITH THE OTHER MORE AFFLUENT AND DEVELOPED NATIONS OF THE WORLD, ARE INCREASINGLY GUILTY OF DEPLETING THE WORLD'S SCARCE RESOURCES.

THE UNITED STATES, FOR INSTANCE, WITH 6 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION, ACCOUNTS FOR ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S ANNUAL CONSUMPTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

IN OTHER WORDS, AS THAT FAMOUS PHILOSOPHER
"POGO" ONCE STATED, "WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY, AND THEY
IS US!"

NOW YOU MIGHT VERY WELL ASK, WHAT DOES ALL THIS
HAVE TO DO WITH AGRICULTURE AND THE WORLD FOOD SITUATION?"

I'M HERE TO TELL YOU, "A LOT."

THE GOAL OF CONTROLLING THE CONTINUED EXPANSION
OF WORLD POPULATION STILL ELUDES US. THE WORLD'S POPULATION
CONTINUES TO EXPAND AT A RATE OF ABOUT 2 PERCENT PER YEAR.
AND ADDED TO THIS DEMAND FACTOR IS YET ANOTHER MAJOR CLAIMANT
ON THE WORLD'S FOOD RESOURCES -- RISING AFFLUENCE.

IN POOR COUNTRIES, THE AVAILABILITY OF GRAIN PER
PERSON AVERAGES ONLY 400 POUNDS PER YEAR, OR ABOUT ONE
POUND PER DAY.

~~PRACTICALLY ALL OF THIS GRAIN IS CONSUMED DIRECTLY.~~

IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, ON THE OTHER HAND, PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF CEREAL GRAINS IS NOW APPROACHING NEARLY 2,000 POUNDS PER YEAR, MOST OF WHICH IS CONVERTED INTO MEAT, MILK, AND EGGS.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN IN TERMS OF "INPUT" REQUIREMENTS, THE AMOUNTS OF LAND, WATER, FERTILIZER, SEED, CREDIT, TRANSPORTATION, STORAGE AND ENERGY NEEDED TO SATISFY SUCH CONSUMPTION HABITS?

BRIEFLY STATED, IT MEANS THAT THE AMOUNT OF SUCH RESOURCES USED TO SUPPORT AN AVERAGE NORTH AMERICAN ARE NEARLY FIVE TIMES THOSE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE AVERAGE INDIAN, AFRICAN, OR SOUTH AMERICAN.

THE UNITED STATES TODAY SUPPLIES ALMOST 50 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S WHEAT EXPORTS, 60 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S FEED GRAIN EXPORTS, AND 90 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S SOYBEAN EXPORTS, WHILE THIS MEANS THAT OUR NATION HAS AN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY FAR IN EXCESS OF ITS OWN FOOD NEEDS, IT ALSO MEANS THAT MUCH OF THE WORLD IS DIRECTLY DEPENDENT UPON US FOR ITS FOOD.

WE MUST ALSO REMEMBER THAT OUR NATION IS DEPENDENT UPON OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD FOR THE INPUT RESOURCES NEEDED TO PRODUCE ALL OF THAT FOOD.

IN OTHER WORDS, FOOD PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY IS A TWO-WAY STREET.

ANY DISRUPTION OR DENIAL OF NEEDED AGRICULTURAL
INPUTS WILL RESULT IN FOOD SUPPLY SHORTAGES -- AND TODAY,
GIVEN THE FACT THAT U.S. AND WORLD GRAIN RESERVES ARE AT
THEIR LOWEST LEVELS IN DECADES, ANYTHING ADVERSELY
AFFECTING FOOD PRODUCTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE, ESPECIALLY
IN THE U.S., WILL HAVE IMMEDIATE AND CATASTROPHIC EFFECTS
IN FOOD DEFICIT AREAS OF THE WORLD.

IF WORSE COMES TO WORST IN THIS REG^ARD, THE AMERICAN
CONSUMER CAN BE PROTECTED -- BUT NOT WITHOUT A PRICE!

THE PRICE TO THE AFFLUENT CONSUMER UNDER THESE
CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD LIKELY BE SOME SHORTAGES AND MUCH
HIGHER GROCERY BILLS, BUT THE PRICE TO THE POOR MAJORITY
COULD BE NO FOOD AT ALL--STARVATION OR DEATH.

WHEN ARAB COUNTRIES CUT OFF PETROLEUM SUPPLIES TO THE U.S., THEY ARE, IN EFFECT, CUTTING FOOD GRAIN SUPPLIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT FROM THIS COUNTRY TO ASSIST THE NEEDY AND SOMETIMES STARVING PEOPLE OF THE WORLD, INCLUDING MANY MILLIONS OF AFRICANS TODAY.

NOTWITHSTANDING ANY MAN-MADE OR POLITICAL THREATS TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF EXPANDED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION THIS NEXT YEAR, LET US EXAMINE WHAT IS IN PROSPECT, ASSUMING NORMAL WEATHER CONDITIONS.

WORLD GRAIN AND OILSEED PROSPECTS POINT TO RECORD CROPS THIS YEAR. RICE SUPPLIES ARE THE TIGHTEST AMONG MAJOR COMMODITIES AT PRESENT, AND WILL LIKELY REMAIN SO FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

BUT NOW LETS EXAMINE WORLD CONSUMPTION ESTIMATES
FOR THIS NEXT YEAR.

WHILE WORLD GRAIN PRODUCTION PROSPECTS POINT TO
RECORD CROPS THIS NEXT YEAR, CONSUMPTION IS EXPECTED
TO EXCEED THAT RECORD PRODUCTION, WHICH WILL MEAN EVEN
FURTHER DRAWDOWNS ON CARRYOVER OR LIMITED RESERVE STOCKS.

THE WORLD CARRYOVER OR RESERVE STOCKS OF ALL
GRAINS (WHEAT, COARSE GRAINS AND RICE) IS ESTIMATED TO
BE ABOUT 100 MILLION METRIC TONS, ABOUT ONE-MONTH'S
SUPPLY.

ON JULY 1 OF THIS YEAR WHEAT STOCKS IN THE 4 MAJOR
EXPORTING COUNTRIES -- U.S. CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND ARGENTINA --
WERE AT THE LOWEST LEVEL IN TWO DECADES. GRAIN STOCKS IN
MANY OTHER NATIONS OF THE WORLD ALSO HAVE BEEN DRAWN DOWN.

WHAT ALL OF THIS ADDS UP TO IS THAT THE WORLD WILL BE
ALMOST ENTIRELY AT THE MERCY OF NEXT YEAR'S WEATHER.
RESERVE STOCKS OF GRAIN DURING THIS NEXT YEAR WILL BE
TOO THIN TO PROTECT AGAINST ANY MAJOR CROP FAILURE,

AND LETS NOT PASS OVER THE "WEATHER" PORTION OF
THIS EQUATION TOO QUICKLY.

DURING HEARINGS ON THE WORLD FOOD SITUATION, WHICH
I CHAIRED WITH SENATOR HUDDLESTON LAST MONTH IN WASHINGTON,
DR. REID A. BRYSON, DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN,
REMINDED US OF THE 20-YEAR DROUGHT CYCLE TO WHICH THE
UNITED STATES HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN SUBJECTED.

WHILE HE GAVE NO EVIDENCE, OR IN ANY WAY TRIED TO CONVINCE US THAT OUR NATION'S MID-WEST AND GREAT PLAINS REGIONS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO SUCH CONDITIONS NEXT YEAR, HE DID REMIND US THAT THE LAST MAJOR DROUGHT OCCURRED IN THOSE REGIONS DURING THE EARLY 1950'S AND THAT, IN HIS JUDGMENT, SOME REPEAT OF SUCH CONDITIONS PROBABLY COULD BE EXPECTED SOMETIME DURING THIS DECADE!

THIS GENERAL ANALYSIS OF THIS SITUATION SHOULD SERVE AS AN OMINOUS AND SERIOUS WARNING TO THE WORLD ABOUT THE NEED TO PROTECT AGAINST SUCH CHANGING WEATHER PATTERNS THROUGH EXPLICIT FOOD RESERVE POLICIES IN THE FUTURE.

THERE IS AN ADDITIONAL OBSERVATION. IT TAKES 9 CALORIES OF ENERGY INPUT TO PRODUCE 1 CALORIE FOR THE AMERICAN CONSUMER.

IT TAKES 5 CALORIES OF ENERGY INPUT TO PRODUCE EVERY 1 CALORIE WE EXPORT. THEREFORE, ANY SUBSTANTIAL DISLOCATION OF THE ENERGY INPUT (ARAB OIL) WILL SHARPLY REDUCE OUR PRODUCTION AND THEREBY DENY THE NEEDY NATIONS AND PEOPLES -- PARTICULARLY OF AFRICA AND ASIA - THE FOOD THEY DESPERATELY NEED. IF NEED BE, WE CAN THROUGH EXPORT CONTROLS HAVE SUFFICIENT FOOD FOR OUR OWN PEOPLE.

OUR NATION AND THE OTHER NATIONS OF THE WORLD MUST BEGIN IMMEDIATELY TO WORK TOWARD NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL POLICIES WHICH RECOGNIZE THE INTER RELATIONSHIP OF ALL OF THESE FACTORS.

SPECIFICALLY, HERE'S WHAT I BELIEVE MUST BE DONE TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THESE SERIOUS PROBLEMS:

1. A MORE EXTENSIVE AND INTENSIVE EFFORT MUST BE UNDERTAKEN BY ALL COUNTRIES TO CONTROL CONTINUED POPULATION GROWTH. THIS IS NEEDED NOT ONLY IN THE DEVELOPING NATIONS WHERE POPULATION GROWTH RATES ARE HIGHEST, BUT ALSO IN THE MORE AFFLUENT NATIONS WHERE RESOURCE CONSUMPTION HAS REACHED STAGGERING LEVELS.

2. AFFLUENT NATIONS MUST ALSO TEMPER THEIR OWN CONSUMPTION HABITS IN THE FUTURE, ESPECIALLY AS THEY RELATE TO EXCESSIVE DEPLETION OF NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES.

3. A WORLD CONFERENCE TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS THREATENING THE WORLD FOOD SUPPLY MUST BE CONVENED IMMEDIATELY.) I HAVE URGED THE PRESIDENT (IN AN AMENDMENT TO THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1973,) TO INITIATE A CONFERENCE TO STUDY AND REPORT ON SUCH ISSUES AS BARRIERS TO INCREASED WORLD FOOD PRODUCTION, THE WORLD AVAILABILITY OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS SUCH AS FUEL AND FERTILIZER,

AND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR HUMANITARIAN FOOD ASSISTANCE
OVER THE COMING DECADE.

4. THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD MUST GIVE THE HIGHEST
PRIORITY TO INCREASING THE VOLUME OF FARM OUTPUT INSTEAD
OF DIRECTING THEIR ATTENTION TO WAYS TO RESTRICT PRODUCTION
AND MARKETS BY TRADE BARRIERS, HIGH CONSUMER PRICES, AND
OTHER SUCH PRACTICES.

5. THERE MUST BE IMMEDIATE CONSULTATION AMONG THE
EXPORTING AND IMPORTING NATIONS OF THE WORLD ON THE
QUESTION OF ACCESS AND EQUITABLE SHARING OF AVAILABLE WORLD
SUPPLIES OF FOOD, SUCH CONSULTATION MUST ALSO INCLUDE THE
INPUTS REQUIRED FOR FOOD PRODUCTION.

IT WOULD BE UNCONSCIONABLE FOR THE DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES TO FORGET THE CRUCIAL FOOD REQUIREMENTS OF THE
DEVELOPING WORLD WHEN THESE POORER COUNTRIES ENCOUNTER
PERIODS OF TEMPORARY SHORTAGES.

TIGHT SUPPLIES MAY MEAN SPOT SHORTAGES AND RISING PRICES IN THIS COUNTRY, BUT IN MANY COUNTRIES OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD, FOOD SCARCITY OR SHARP PRICE INCREASE MEANS DEATH.

6. THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MUST BE PROVIDED WITH GREATER ASSISTANCE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO MEET THEIR OWN FOOD NEEDS BY EXPANDING THEIR PRODUCTION.

THE MAJOR THRUST OF THE FOREIGN AID BILL, WHICH I RECENTLY MANAGED ON THE SENATE FLOOR, IS TOWARD INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THROUGH SHARING THE AGRICULTURAL KNOW-HOW WHICH HAS MADE THE AMERICAN FARMER THE MOST PRODUCTIVE IN THE WORLD.

7. WE MUST DEVELOP A SYSTEM THAT OFFERS THE CONSUMERS OF THE U.S. AND THE WORLD AT LEAST A MINIMUM LEVEL OF FOOD SECURITY AND REASONABLY STABLE PRICES.

UNLESS THE WORLD DEVELOPS A SYSTEM WHICH INSURES THE AVAILABILITY OF STORED RESERVES LARGE ENOUGH TO OFFSET THESE PERIODIC PRODUCTION SWINGS, CONSEQUENCES FOR THE FARMERS AND CONSUMERS OF THE WORLD WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY DISASTROUS.

TO DO THIS WE MUST BEGIN IMMEDIATELY TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM OF DOMESTIC RESERVES TO PROTECT THE AMERICAN CONSUMER FROM WILD PRICE ESCALATION, TO ASSURE A STABLE INCOME TO THE AMERICAN FARMER, AND TO MAINTAIN OUR CREDIBILITY IN THE WORLD AS A DEPENDABLE SUPPLIER OF FOOD AND FIBER

CURRENTLY PENDING BEFORE THE SENATE IS A BILL (S. 2005) I INTRODUCED LAST MAY THAT WOULD PROVIDE FOR AN ADEQUATE LEVEL OF DOMESTIC RESERVES OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, WHEAT, CORN, AND SOYBEANS.

IT NEEDS PROMPT ATTENTION, AND IT DESERVES THE SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT.

THE SKYROCKETING FOOD PRICES OF THIS PAST YEAR SHOULD UNDERLINE THE NEED TO PROVIDE SOME STABILITY IN THE PRICES OF ESSENTIAL FOOD ITEMS. FARMERS ALSO SHOULD SUPPORT IT TO PROTECT THEIR PRICES IN TIMES OF OVERPRODUCTION.

BUT THIS ALONE ISN'T ENOUGH.

THE UNITED STATES MUST ~~AND~~ PARTICIPATE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF STRATEGIC FOOD RESERVES. IN MY AMENDMENT TO THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1973, THE PRESIDENT IS DIRECTED TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH OTHER NATIONS TO ESTABLISH SUCH A RESERVE SYSTEM. THIS IS SOMETHING THAT I HAVE BEEN CALLING FOR IN THE SENATE FOR NEARLY 20 YEARS. PERHAPS ITS DAY HAS FINALLY COME.

SUCH A RESERVE WOULD PROVIDE A MINIMUM LEVEL OF SECURITY FOR THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD FROM THE RAVAGES OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION SUCH AS THOSE BEING EXPERIENCED IN AFRICA AND ASIA TODAY.

THERE MUST BE AN EQUITABLE SHARING OF THE COST OF MAINTAINING SUCH A SYSTEM BETWEEN BOTH THE PRODUCER AND CONSUMER NATIONS. FURTHERMORE, THESE RESERVES SHOULD BE STRATEGICALLY LOCATED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD SO THEY WILL BE READILY AVAILABLE WHEN NEEDED.

8. FINALLY, WE MUST TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE UPCOMING ROUND OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS TO TAILOR WORLD AGRICULTURAL POLICIES TOWARD INCREASING WORLD FARM OUTPUT AND EXPANDING INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE.

THE DEMANDS OF A PROTEIN STARVED WORLD REQUIRE, FOR
EXAMPLE, THAT TRADE IN SOY PROTEIN BE LIBERALIZED TO THE
MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE.

WITHOUT GENERALLY ACCEPTED RULES TO GUIDE NATIONAL
FARM POLICIES, WE FORCE GOVERNMENTS TO SOLVE THEIR OWN
AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS WITHOUT REGARD TO THE EXTERNAL
EFFECTS OF SUCH ACTIONS.

IF THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD ARE TO MEET THE FOOD
NEEDS OF THEIR PEOPLE, THREE BASIC ISSUES MUST BE DEALT
WITH. THEY ARE:

--POPULATION CONTROL

--ACCESS TO THE RESOURCES REQUIRED TO PRODUCE
FOOD, FUEL, TRANSPORTATION, STORAGE, FERTILIZER,
LAND, WATER, CREDIT, SEED AND

--IMPROVED MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF SUCH
RESOURCES.

UNLESS THE WORLD'S CONTINUED POPULATION EXPANSION CAN BE STOPPED OR AT LEAST SLOWED DOWN, THE HORRIBLE PROOF OF MALTHUS' THEORY MAY SOON BE AT HAND.

UNLESS BOTH OUR NATION AND THE REST OF THE WORLD SOON LEARN THE IMPORTANCE OF SHARING ACCESS TO THE ESSENTIAL RESOURCES REQUIRED TO PRODUCE FOOD, MAJOR BREAKDOWNS IN EVEN CURRENT PRODUCTION LEVELS WILL LIKELY OCCUR -- PETROLEUM TODAY BEING A CLASSIC EXAMPLE AND FERTILIZER ANOTHER.

AND UNLESS BOTH OUR COUNTRY AND THE REST OF THE WORLD DO MORE TO IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF THE WORLD'S LIMITED RESOURCES -- ESPECIALLY THE NON-RENEWABLE TYPE -- MANY OF THESE RESOURCES WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL TO FOOD PRODUCTION WILL BE TRAGICALLY LOST THROUGH WASTE OR MISALLOCATION.

IN SHORT, UNLESS WE BECOME BETTER MANAGERS
OF OUR OWN DESTINY, MANKIND WILL SURELY COLLIDE
WITH HIMSELF AND THE NATURAL LIMITS TO HIS ENVIRONMENT.

FOOD-COMMODITIES-HAS BECOME THE NEW CURRENCY. TODAY
NATIONS ARE TRADING IN COMMODITIES WHICH REPRESENT REAL
WEALTH. WE, AS A MAJOR FOOD PRODUCING NATION, NEED TO
FULLY UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANT ASSET THAT IS AT OUR
COMMAND--THE PRODUCTIVITY OF THE AMERICAN FARM AND THE
EXCELLENT SYSTEM THAT WE HAVE OF PROCESSING AND DISTRIBUTION.
TO BE SURE, IT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT BUT IT RANKS AT THE
TOP OF THE LIST IN COMPARISON TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

FOOD IS A NEW FORM OF POWER. FOOD IS WEALTH.
FOOD IS AN EXTRA DIMENSION IN OUR DIPLOMACY. THERE IS NO
WAY THAT ANY COUNTRY CAN HAVE ECONOMIC STABILITY OR THAT
ITS CURRENCY CAN BE SOUND IF IT SUFFERS FROM SEVERE SCARCITY
OF FOOD AND HIGHLY INFLATED FOOD PRICES.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE HOPE OF INTERNATIONAL MONETARY STABILITY WILL IN THE LONG RUN DEPEND UPON THE AVAILABILITY OF FOOD, FIBER, AND ENERGY.

IF WE ARE TO AVERT SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS THAT COULD ERUPT INTO CATASTROPHIC WARFARE, WE MUST HAVE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF FOOD AND ENERGY. WE MUST ALSO UNDERSTAND THE INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FOOD AND FUEL. WHEN NATIONS THREATEN TO CUT BACK ON OIL SHIPMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES, THE WHOLE WORLD NEEDS TO BE ALERTED TO THE IMPLICATIONS THAT THIS MOVE COULD HAVE REGARDING ADVERSE EFFECTS ON U.S. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. AND IF AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IS SEVERELY LIMITED OR RESTRICTED, THEN THE ENTIRE WORLD WILL SUFFER.

WHY? BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES PROVIDES ABOUT ONE HALF OF THE WORLD FOOD EXPORTS, 70% OF THE WORLD'S FEED GRAIN EXPORTS, CLOSE TO 80% OF THE WORLD'S SOYBEAN EXPORTS.

GIVEN THIS GREAT DEPENDENCE THAT AGRICULTURE HAS ON PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, ESPECIALLY FROM THE STANDPOINT OF ITS IMPORTANCE AS A FEED STOCK FOR FERTILIZER PRODUCTION, THE IMPLICATION ON U.S. PRODUCTION GOALS IS OBVIOUS. IF U.S. PRODUCTION FALLS DRASTICALLY, THEN THE ENTIRE WORLD WILL FEEL THE CONSEQUENCES. THERE IS A LESSON OF INTERDEPENDENCE HERE. WE LIVE IN A GLOBAL VILLAGE, AND ALL OF US NEED EACH OTHER.

AND LET US NOT OVERLOOK THE TRAGIC HUMAN TOLL OF MALNUTRITION. CONCERN OVER MALNUTRITION IS NOT A NEW DEVELOPMENT.

BUT ONLY IN RECENT YEARS HAVE NATIONAL LEADERS
BEGUN TO RECOGNIZE THE DEGREE TO WHICH HUNGER AND
MALNUTRITION FRUSTRATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

TODAY I AM ENCOURAGED BY A NEW EMPHASIS ON
TACKLING THE NUTRITION PROBLEM THAT APPEARS TO BE
EMERGING AROUND THE WORLD.

THERE IS INCREASING EVIDENCE OF COOPERATION
BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE TO UTILIZE
KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY TO COMBAT THE TERRIBLE COST
OF MALNUTRITION --- ESPECIALLY AMONG THE WORLDS CHILDREN.
IN THE LATE 1960'S AN ESTIMATED 269 MILLION CHILDREN
IN THE DEVELOPING NATIONS SUFFERED FROM MALNUTRITION.
THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN LIVING IN THIS TORTUROUS STATE
OF HEALTH IN THESE AREAS TODAY IS NOW ESTIMATED AT WELL
OVER 300 MILLION.

WHILE WE MAY BE PRODUCING MORE PROTEIN TO FEED THE WORLD, THE NUMBERS SUFFERING FROM A LACK OF IT ARE STILL GROWING. THIS TREND CANNOT BE TOLERATED. IT MUST BE REVERSED. IN THIS AGE OF SCIENCE AND HIGH TECHNOLOGY, THE WORLD'S CHILDREN CAN BE ASKED NO LONGER TO EXIST IN THE MERE SHADOW'S OF LIFE THAT WE REFER TO AS MALNUTRITION.

IF WE ARE TO MEET THE MINIMUM PROTEIN NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD, AND PREVENT THE CHANGE IN DIETARY HABITS OF THE RICH FROM SPELLING MALNUTRITION AND EVEN STARVATION FOR THE POOR, A "PROTEIN EXPLOSION" MUST TAKE PLACE. THIS MUST BE MADE A CENTRAL GOAL OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY.

TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL A MAJOR NEW PARTNERSHIP
AND AN EXPANDED ^{Research} PROGRAM ^{by} GOVERNMENTS ~~INCLUDING THE~~
~~UNITED NATIONS~~, AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR MUST BE MOUNTED
WITH ADEQUATE PUBLIC SUPPORT AND FULL PARTICIPATION BY
~~THE TECHNICALLY SKILLED IN~~ PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, I AM
CONVINCED WE CAN PRODUCE A "PROTEIN EXPLOSION" THROUGHOUT
THE WORLD. ~~WHEN WE DO ^{SO} THIS EXPLOSION WILL TRULY BE~~
~~"A SHOT HEARD ROUND THE WORLD."~~

~~THIS WILL BE A MUCH EXPANDED EFFORT TO MAXIMIZE~~
~~WORLD PROTEIN PRODUCTION IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY.~~ ~~WE~~
MUST EXPAND AND CONCENTRATE ON INCREASING THE PROTEIN
QUALITY OF OUR FEEDGRAINS AT RESEARCH CENTERS AROUND
THE WORLD. A MUCH GREATER EFFORT TO MAXIMIZE FISH
PRODUCTION FROM FRESH AND SALT WATER, THROUGH IMPROVED
INTENSIFIED MANAGEMENT PRACTICES, IS A MUST.

MANY OTHER AVENUES TO INCREASED PROTEIN SUPPLY MUST ALSO BE INVESTIGATED, AND, AS I SEE IT, THE "GOLDEN BEAN" AND SOY PRODUCTS WILL PLAY A KEY ROLE FOR YEARS TO COME.

THEREFORE, I AM CALLING FOR THE CREATION OF A WORLDWIDE PROTEIN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT NETWORK. IT WOULD BE COMPOSED OF COOPERATING INSTITUTIONS IN AFRICA, LATIN AMERICA, ASIA, EASTERN EUROPE, *Western Europe* & *the* UNITED STATES, ~~AND AROUND THE WORLD.~~

I propose that use in the
~~I WILL PROPOSE LEGISLATION, WHEN I RETURN TO~~
United States
~~WASHINGTON,~~ TO ESTABLISH WHAT COULD BECOME THE HUB IN

THIS RESEARCH SYSTEM - SINO/AMERICAN PROTEIN RESEARCH

INSTITUTE. *Cooperation in Research between the U.S. & the People's Republic of China.*

~~IT IS ONLY FITTING THAT~~ THESE TWO NATIONS, WHICH PRODUCE ROUGHLY 90% OF THE WORLD'S SOYBEANS, ~~TAKE A~~ *must take*

a LEADING ROLE IN THE CLOSING OF THE PROTEIN GAP.

~~WHILE IT WOULD EXPLORE MANY POSSIBILITIES FOR~~
~~INCREASING WORLD PROTEIN PRODUCTION,~~ THE SOYBEAN AND
SOY PRODUCTS ~~would~~ ^{should} BE GIVEN SPECIAL ATTENTION. THIS
SOYBEAN WORK WOULD HAVE TWO MAJOR GOALS.

THE FIRST WOULD BE A BREAK THROUGH IN PER ACRE
YIELDS OF SOYBEANS. FOR 20 YEARS, SOYBEAN YIELDS
HAVE ONLY INCREASED AT MARGINAL RATES. WE MUST SET A
GOAL OF MEETING AT LEAST HALF OF THE AVERAGE ANNUAL
INCREASE IN WORLDWIDE SOYBEAN DEMAND (7%) FROM YIELD
IMPROVEMENTS.

THE SECOND WOULD BE TO DEVELOP SOYBEAN VARIETIES
THAT WILL FLOURISH IN THE TROPICS. IF THIS COULD BE
ACCOMPLISHED, THE IMPACT ON THE LEVEL OF HUMAN NUTRITION
AND THE REDUCTION IN HUMAN SUFFERING WOULD BE TREMENDOUS.

I HOPE THAT YOU WILL GIVE ME YOUR SUPPORT IN
GETTING THIS EFFORT MOVING.

I HAVE DISCUSSED WITH YOU TODAY SOME OF THE
ISSUES WHICH I BELIEVE MUST BE ADDRESSED AND ACTIONS
THAT MUST BE TAKEN IF THE WORLD IS TO ENJOY A MINIMUM
LEVEL OF FOOD SECURITY IN THE YEARS AND DECADES AHEAD.

THE STAKES ARE TOO HIGH TO LET FOOD POLICIES BE
ESTABLISHED AFTER CRISES ARE UPON US. WHEN THAT OCCURS,
IT IS USUALLY TOO LATE, AND OUR OPTIONS ARE TOO LIMITED.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS
OF THE WORLD DEMAND THAT WE ACT NOW TO MOVE TOWARD
A CLEARLY DEFINED "NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY."



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