

40 million face starvation if Africa is not helped

by the Editors

On Aug. 10, the German stateswoman Helga Zepp-LaRouche released an appeal to governments entitled "Help Save 40 Million People!" The words of the founder of the international Schiller Institutes follow, in translation (with deutschemark amounts rendered in U.S. dollars):

"A catastrophe of apocalyptic dimensions—one to which the world public has scarcely reacted—is currently unfolding in Africa. Forty million human beings—the equivalent of two-thirds of the population of former West Germany—are threatened with death by starvation in the coming weeks and months.

"Never before has there been a famine on this scale. The immediate cause is a drought which has afflicted large parts of Africa, a drought against which this extremely underdeveloped continent is utterly defenseless, and which has caused grain production to plummet to one-half of what it was in previous years.

"At present, approximately 1,000 people are dying each day in Somalia. In Madagascar, 1 million people may have died of starvation by the end of this year. In the Horn of Africa, 23 million people are in acute danger of succumbing to a combination of starvation, wars, and the agony of a refugee existence. In southern Africa, yet another 18 million face the same fate.

"But there is still time to prevent horrible mass death provided that we in the industrialized nations muster the requisite political will. Yet up to now, not even half of the absolute minimum amounts of food required to enable these people to simply survive, have been promised, of which only a small part has been actually delivered. So far, the European

Community and other states have promised approximately 4.3 million tons of food, but about 3.2 million additional tons are needed according to information from the World Food Program and the FAO. And that is nowhere near adequate for a diet fit for human beings, but is only the bare essential for sheer survival.

"In order to bring this absolute minimum of 3.2 million additional tons of food into the affected areas, funds for purchase and transport on the order of \$1 billion must be made available. The food itself is available: The European Community has 20 million tons of reserve food stocks. And in comparison to the approximately \$65 billion bill for the Gulf war, \$1 billion is a ridiculously small pittance. So if we cannot even muster the political will for this emergency program, we are indeed morally bankrupt.

"Already back in 1974, the U.S. presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche—now also a political prisoner of the Bush administration—warned in a study that Africa would experience a biological holocaust if the monetarist policy of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were continued. At that time it was already clear, and western governments already aware, that one could not simply continue to lower the living standard of an entire continent and thereby permanently weaken the population's immune system, without provoking the emergence of new epidemics. But instead of adopting the all-Africa development program proposed by LaRouche back then, the international financial institutions refused to give the continent any opportunity to develop. As a result, between 1975 and 1990, the forcible application of the IMF's austerity policy has led to a real flight of capital and goods

out of Africa on the order of \$750 billion to \$1 trillion.

"Today, Africa is threatened with imminent large-scale depopulation, unless the rudder is turned about drastically. AIDS, malaria, cholera, and plague, as well as hunger, wars, and terrorist bands who steal food even from the poorest people, have turned Africa into a hell on Earth.

"Do you really believe that we can look on as an entire continent dies right before our eyes, while we ourselves remain alive? No: Our moral failure to help, when it would be so easy for us to do so, would mean the collapse of our own civilization as well. Under those circumstances, we would fall victim to the results of our own egoism and our own moral senility.

"Only a combination of immediate emergency aid in order to save 40 million people acutely threatened with starvation, in connection with a comprehensive program for developing infrastructure, independent agricultural production, water and energy supplies, industrial development, as well as medical care and schools—only this can prevent the death of an entire continent."

Emergency aid plan

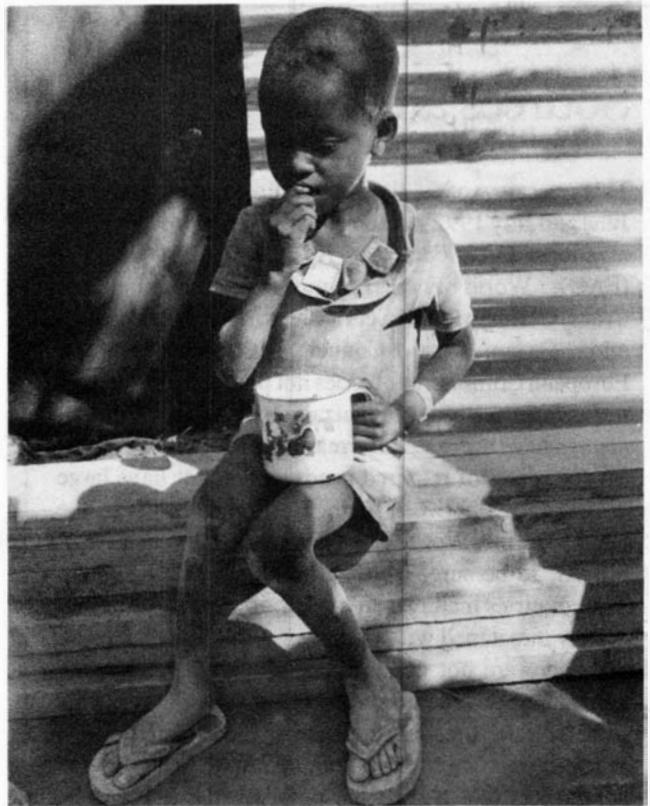
Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche's appeal called for signatures on an emergency program, which includes the following points, especially directed at European governments but certainly applicable to other developed nations such as the United States and Canada:

"1) We must act immediately to make available and transport 3.2 million tons of food, valued at \$1 billion, into the affected areas. Our watchword in this effort must be: Food must be brought to the people who need it, not vice versa.

"2) Let us halt the insanity of the European agricultural reform, which in our country has reduced grain production by 30% and is driving our farmers into bankruptcy, while, according to a report by the Food and Agricultural Organization, one-third of humanity is in a permanent state of hunger, and only one-third is adequately nourished. We are for the rapid realization of a global 'Food for Peace' program as the only means of preventing mass death, warfare over food supplies, and floods of hundreds of millions of refugees during the years immediately ahead.

"3) In the German and other armies, instead of lamenting about a new 'identity crisis' and training soldiers with a new 'enemy image' for future wars between North and South, we must give them a true peace mission. In consultation with the affected nations, our soldiers, and especially the engineering corps, could take on the important task of food transport and help to build infrastructure.

"Every one of the 40 million people who are now acutely threatened with starvation, feel pain and suffering just as you and I do. Every one of the children threatened with death, has the right to laugh and frolic. Therefore, how we react to those catastrophes in Africa, is a measure for our own moral capacity to survive."



Refugee child sips milk in the Guri-Ely refugee camp in the Beledweine District of Somalia. At least 4.5 million Somalians are in need of emergency food assistance today, while the U.N. plays cynical power games.

Depopulation stalks Africa: a fact sheet

The fact sheet which follows was prepared by Jutta Dinkermann and Alfred Dinkermann to accompany Mrs. LaRouche's appeal.

Africa is facing a famine which goes far beyond any previously known, and which is the result of both the drought now sweeping the continent, and decades of lack of infrastructure development. Forty million people in 19 countries are particularly threatened (Angola, Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia, and Zimbabwe). While the world is fixated on the European refugee drama, a far greater catastrophe is playing out in Africa. Wars and drought have left 7.5 million Africans homeless, one-third of the world's refugees. Some nations have already declared a national state of emergency and mass deaths have already set in.

A report by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the World Food Program estimates

Sources and method

This overview of food relief requirements is based on June and July 1992 statements from the following organizations: U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), World Food Program, International Red Cross, Catholic Relief Service, Lutheran World Federation, Oxfam, World Council of Churches, and the European Community. It does not pretend to completeness, since the cited organizations themselves do not always have accurate information.

Estimates of required needs sometimes have large discrepancies between them. Here, the reports of the FAO and the World Food Program have been employed, to be sure, as merely a "ballpark" estimate. The countries included are only those which are immediately threatened with famine, but that does not mean that there are not many other African countries, not named here, which need food relief.

Since we are speaking here of food relief, what is involved is a minimal ration, required for the direct survival of that part of the population which can be reached by the aid organizations by conventional means. The actual requirement is significantly higher. These rations also have nothing to do with the actual requirements of full nutrition. To meet these real needs and to ship them into Africa as quickly as possible, must be the basis of any serious aid program.

It should also be clear that this involves only a small segment of African needs and the corresponding aid requirements. A combination of drought, the resultant food shortage, and the threat to the drinking water supply, as well as the spread of diseases like malaria, AIDS, cholera, and even plague, are working to depopulate whole regions, as was reported in the last issue.

—J.D. and A.D.

that grain production in some of the drought-stricken countries is as much as 50% lower than last year. Even those nations which have long enjoyed plentiful harvests and even been able to export have now been hit. Even South Africa must this year, for the first time, import some 5 million tons of grain.

The southern part of Africa has to battle with the largest food shortages. Early projections for East Africa estimate that the harvest will drop only slightly. In West Africa it has just recently rained, but it is too early to make crop projections.

TABLE 1

South African region: food relief requirements as of June-July 1992 (for free distribution) (tons)

| Country | Threatened population | Food requirement | Food promised |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Angola | 1,400,000 | 44,900* | 43,400 |
| Botswana | 100,000 | 5,000 | ? |
| Lesotho | 170,000 | 15,700 | 10,800 |
| Malawi | 5,700,000 | 379,400 | 317,000 |
| Mozambique | 3,150,000 | 492,900 | 357,200 |
| Namibia | 250,000 | 17,900 | 15,200 |
| Swaziland | 250,000 | 46,500 | 20,500 |
| Tanzania | 800,000 | 16,500 | ? |
| Zambia | 1,700,000 | 109,000 | 53,900 |
| Zimbabwe | 4,600,000 | 517,600 | 176,800 |
| (Not yet assigned in June) | | | 595,600 |
| Total | 18,120,000 | 1,645,400 | 1,590,400 |

Source: World Food Program and FAO

* The stated amounts of food needs for Angola vacillate considerably in various publications of the World Food Program and FAO, from 44,900 tons to 120,000 tons. Against this stands the shortfall of food relief which has reached these countries. Even if the June figures had meanwhile doubled, the difference remains huge.

TABLE 2

South African region: free food relief, which had reached the drought-stricken countries by June (tons)

| Country | Food relief |
|--------------|----------------|
| Angola | — |
| Botswana | — |
| Lesotho | 3,100 |
| Malawi | 135,000 |
| Mozambique | 73,900 |
| Namibia | 7,200 |
| Swaziland | — |
| Tanzania | — |
| Zambia | 12,300 |
| Zimbabwe | 11,900 |
| Total | 243,400 |

There is still time to prevent mass starvation among the peoples of Africa, but this depends on political will and quick, comprehensive international efforts. So far not even half the minimum food requirements have been pledged

TABLE 3

South African region: food aid needs for purchase on the market, as of June-July 1992

(tons)

| Country | Food requirement | Food promised | Food deficit |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Angola | 9,000 | 0 | 9,000 |
| Botswana | 11,700 | 0 | 11,700 |
| Lesotho | 62,000 | 0 | 62,000 |
| Malawi | 340,000 | 5,000 | 335,000 |
| Mozambique | 861,000 | 263,139 | 597,861 |
| Namibia | 43,500 | 10,000 | 33,500 |
| Swaziland | 19,000 | 0 | 19,000 |
| Tanzania | 265,000 | 1,460 | 263,540 |
| Zambia | 726,000 | 350,000 | 376,000 |
| Zimbabwe | 203,400 | 238,750 | -35,350 |
| Total | 2,540,600 | 868,349 | 1,672,251 |

Source: FAO and World Food Program

which are needed to assure the bare survival of the stricken populations, not to speak of an adequate nutritional level. And of what has been pledged, only a small portion has been delivered (see tables).

The European Community had up to June pledged from its budget an estimated 1,681,000 tons of food (of which 800,000 are to come from a special aid program). Of this, 675,000 tons arrived in Africa. In addition, as of June there were 350,000 tons promised by single EC member nations. Together with the pledges of the United States and other nations, the overall quantity of promised food at this point is something over 3 million tons. In July 1.3 million tons appeared. But for the nearly 3.2 million tons of food minimal still needed, so far there are no commitments.

To ship one ton of wheat to its destination in Africa, including internal transport, the European Community reckons on a rough overall cost of \$333 per ton. This is arrived at by figuring a cost of \$147 for the ton of wheat itself, plus about \$55 for sea transport, and then, for inland transport to the recipients, several hundred more dollars are required. If one leaves aside the costs of inland transport, then the cost of shipping a ton of wheat is about \$200 per ton (for buying the wheat and for ocean transport.) Using these rough factors for wheat (which is not the only foodstuff required,) the remaining 3.2 million tons of food aid carry a bill of \$640 million that has to be raised (without inland transport costs;) or a total bill (inclusive of inland transport) which comes to \$1 billion.

According to its own statements the EC can fall back on some 20 million tons of stockpiled food supplies. So there is no lack of food supplies, and the costs for the aid can be

TABLE 4

Food aid requirements for the Horn of Africa as of June-July 1992

(tons)

| Country | Threatened population | Food requirement | Food promised | Delivered to date* |
|--------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Somalia | 2,426,000** | 173,365** | 69,888 | 66,000 |
| Ethiopia | 6,900,000 | 913,767 | 754,911 | 240,000 |
| Eritrea | 2,330,000 | 300,679 | 271,360 | ? |
| Kenya | 1,291,000 | 163,357 | 58,311 | ? |
| Sudan | 7,840,000 | 635,198 | 472,125 | 58,000 |
| Djibouti | 20,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | ? |
| Total | 20,807,000 | 2,191,366 | 1,631,595 | 364,000 |

Source: FAO and World Food Program.

* Based on June figures

** Under war conditions in Somalia, supplying the population is very difficult. There are 4.5 million people in need, which would mean a requirement of about 500,000 tons of food. But these statistics correspond rather to the levels which the aid organizations believe they can achieve under current conditions and with current means.

TABLE 5

West and Central African countries: food relief needs as of June 1992

(tons)

| Country | Food requirement | Food promised | Food delivered |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| West Africa | | | |
| Sierra Leone | 100,000 | 49,000 | 11,000 |
| Liberia | 127,000 | 77,000 | 11,000 |
| Togo | 14,000 | 19,000 | 7,000 |
| Central Africa | | | |
| Zaire | 140,000 | 31,000 | 29,000 |
| Ruanda | 12,000 | 14,000 | 2,000 |

Source: FAO and World Food Program

covered, if the political determination to do it can be found.

Compared to the costs which the Gulf war ran up, money should not cause the plan to founder. The money which was used for just a few days of war in the Gulf would be enough to feed Africa for this entire year and to prevent tens of thousands from starving.

Food relief is in the foreground at the moment, but it does not encompass everything that is urgently needed. The water supply has to be assured, and the means have to be prepared for controlling and fighting disease. Seeds must be delivered, since seed production naturally suffered especially from the drought, as well as agricultural equipment, in order to assure

a better harvest in the 1992-93 season, just to name a few of the most pressing tasks.

There are staggering logistical problems and bottlenecks, because Africa has few harbors capable of receiving large quantities of commodities. Distribution internally in these countries is essentially assigned to the old rail networks which served the colonial powers in the last century. There are only a few links between north and south, because the rail lines were laid out in order to extract wealth from the land but not to distribute goods into the interior. Getting relief into the interior is a very difficult, but nonetheless feasible undertaking, and for this the world community must intervene.

Southern Africa. Overall, according to the World Food Program's analysis, the drought-threatened countries in the southern African region require about 4.2-4.3 million tons of food relief in the period between March 1992 and April 1993. So far, for free distribution among the poorest, who have no money to buy food on the market, 1,590,400 tons have been promised. In addition to the free food aid program there are 0.8 million tons of food promised to be available for purchase on the market. The total deficit therefore runs between 1.7 and 1.8 million tons.

Madagascar. In order to avoid mass starvation in drought-stricken Madagascar, the World Food Program has launched an appeal to world public opinion. About 700,000 people desperately need food relief, and it is expected that the number will reach a million by the end of the year. In all, 112,000 tons of food relief will be needed, of which only 33,000 is promised and some 6,000 tons so far delivered.

Horn of Africa. About 23 million people are threatened in this region with famine and starvation. Under conditions of drought, wars, and gigantic streams of refugees, the region needs as a whole more than 2.2 million tons of foodgrain deliveries. So far, some 1.6 million have been pledged, and only about 364,000 tons (as of June) actually have arrived.

West and Central Africa. Although in West Africa the food supply is somewhat good, both **Liberia** and **Sierra Leone** need food relief. In Liberia 750,000 people need food aid, and in Sierra Leone 290,000 people. In **Togo** further aid programs are needed for the population which is under the threat of civil war.

Measures against hunger

As early as July 1984 an Africa Commission of the Fusion Energy Forum of Germany had prepared an extensive memorandum on how to meet the emergency in Africa at that time. The situation since 1984 has rapidly worsened, yet the strategy laid out then is still timely and the suggested measures are more urgent than ever. A few of the key points were:

- An aid program is to be set up such that, from the beginning, it fulfills a twofold goal. It must, as quickly as possible, allay the acute crisis in nutrition, and at the same

Somalia must be flooded with food, to stop hecatomb

The devastating plight of Somalia's population of 6.7 million people has finally made it into the front pages of the American and European press. But while one-third of the population could die in the next six months, and at least 4.5 million are in need of emergency food assistance, Somalia is still being used as a pawn in a cynical power-play by the United Nations Security Council, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the Bush administration, and various European governments.

Despite the fact that for over one year the Somalis have survived with no government, no economy, and a civil war and drought as the realities of the day, the United Nations ignored the crisis, and in fact pulled out of the country, citing insecurity created by the armed gangs of men and youths roaming the cities looking for food. Now, suddenly, the Egyptian-born Boutros-Ghali has made Somalia a priority—but not for the massive quantities of food and other aid needed to prevent one of the worst holocausts of the century from taking place.

Rather, the new U.N. secretary general is seeking to use Somalia as a test case for promoting his new concept of the United Nations as a so-called "peacekeeping" force, with the capability of sending in troops and guards, "with or without" the agreement of the government of the country in question.

In addition, a U.N. mission assessing security for famine relief is examining a proposal to carve the shattered nation up into four separate zones, according to Reuters news agency, citing U.N. sources. They said the U.N. team discussed the plan with southern warlords in early August in Kismaayo, the country's second port.

Somalia is a country without a government, since

time shape the framework within which food production can quickly be increased and, in the long term, food self-sufficiency can be guaranteed.

- Distribution of food should be decentralized, i.e., it should be shipped directly to the affected areas. Mistakes in earlier food relief programs should be avoided, in which food was distributed centrally in specially set up camps to refugees from famine, who came there to search for food. It is obvious that this wrecks the social infrastructure of the country. The underlying principle of the aid program must be: Food must be brought to the people, not the people to the food.

- In order to accomplish this, food must be delivered

President Mohamed Siad Barre was ousted 18 months ago. The country has been in a state of civil war since, with tens of thousands perishing in the conflict. But as drought conditions have advanced in eastern and southern Africa, and as the economy of Somalia has been completely wiped out by the clan warfare, famine and diseases such as tuberculosis have spread dramatically throughout the country in the last three months. It has been estimated that up to one-fourth of all children in Somalia under the age of five have perished already.

According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, 1.5 million are in immediate danger of starvation in the weeks ahead, with millions more perishing in the months to follow. The Red Cross has also estimated food relief needs to be in the order to 50,000 tons per month, but only about 15,000 tons per month are moving into the country. The United Nations' special representative for Somalia, Mohamed Sahnoun, states that at least 4.5 million people are in need of emergency food assistance, and that relief agencies are barely able to supply one-fifth of the country's food needs, according to the *Washington Post* Aug. 11.

Several well-publicized incidents of looting or attacks on food convoys have been used to buttress demands by the U.N. and the Bush regime that U.N. peacekeeping troops and guards be sent in large numbers into the country before more food can be shipped. Somalia has therefore become a crucial test case for the new secretary general's efforts to eliminate national sovereignty under the name of "peacekeeping." In the case of Somalia, which has no functioning government, the U.N. and the Bush regime are now demanding that their forces be sent in, without the prior agreement of the warring factions.

This was spelled out Aug. 3 by James Kunder, director for disaster assistance of the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID). At a special State Department briefing with the press corps, Kunder reported back on a two-week assessment team trip into the Horn of Africa.

He noted that "virtually the entire economy [of Somalia] consists either in protecting relief food—that is, the hiring of armed guards for relief convoys—or attacking those convoys." Despite his admission that "most of the food has gotten through to somebody who can use it," he insisted on the deployment of troops, "with or without" the permission of the different factions. Sen. Nancy Kassebaum (R-Kan.) has also introduced a resolution calling on the U.N. to deploy troops.

At a meeting in late July of the House Select Committee on Hunger, Assistant Secretary of State John R. Bolton took the position that the peacekeeping mission was the first priority.

But the president of Doctors without Borders, which has had volunteers in Somalia since January 1991, disagreed. Said Rony Brauman: "It is imperative to flood the country with food, so that it ceases to be a high-stakes item, stolen by those with weapons. Only by making food readily available will it be possible to ease the tensions caused by shortages."

Even the U.N. special envoy, Mohamed Sahnoun, the former Algerian ambassador in Washington who in principle backs Boutros-Ghali's call for troop deployment, stresses that the food must come first, before security can be established. According to an interview published in the *Washington Post* Aug. 11, Sahnoun states: "Wherever there is a scarcity of food, you're going to have a security problem. You can't escape the fact that people will fight for food. These people have guns—and each one of them has a family to feed."

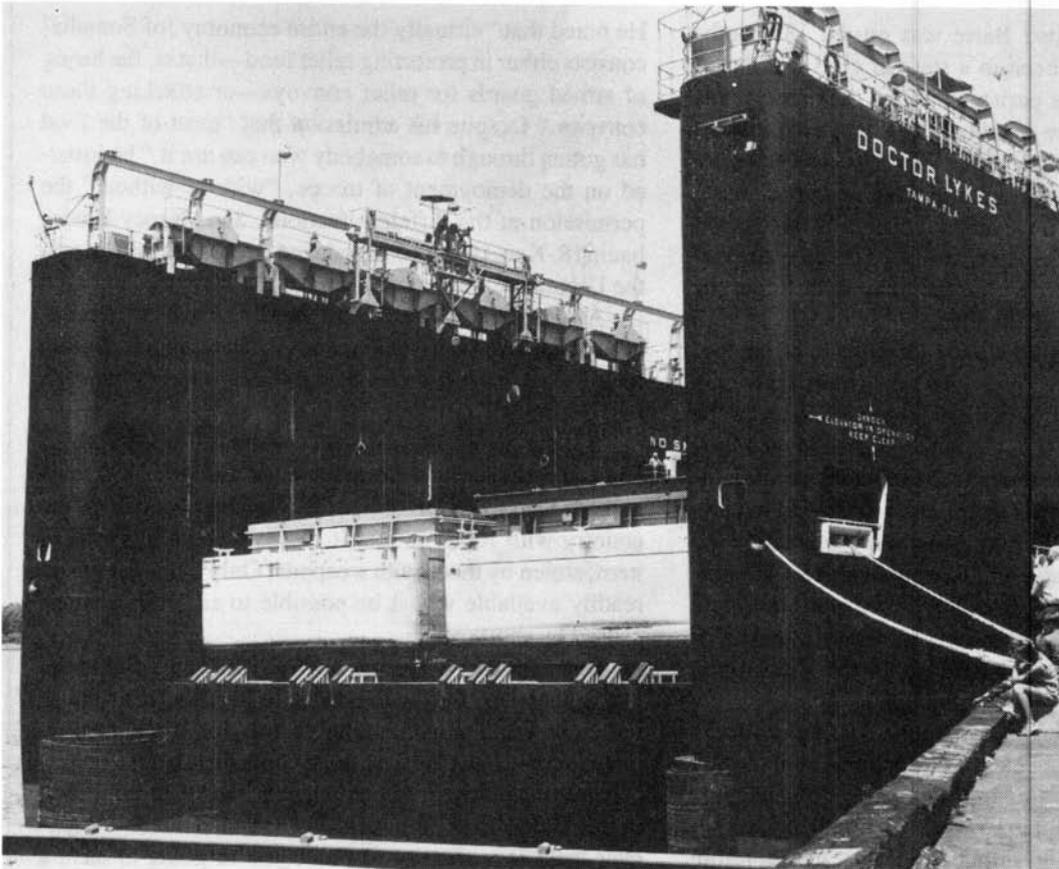
Moreover, David Bassiouni, U.N. coordinator for humanitarian assistance to Somalia, stresses that military intervention without agreement between the two principal opposing sides would be dangerous. "We might find ourselves trying to take over the country and fight our way through, and then the humanitarian operation would become secondary," he told the London *Financial Times* July 29.—*Dana S. Scanlon*

together with the means of transport, so that it can actually be brought to the most remote regions. Special trucks and overland transport vehicles are needed for this, and at times, helicopters and airplanes will also be needed, in order to get the relief to regions where it cannot otherwise be conveyed. In the meantime, road building and earthmoving equipment must be brought to the site, together with the relevant technical personnel, in order to build roads and bridges over which the food can be delivered. This relief infrastructure can then, in the next phase, be used as farm machinery and so forth to build up a goods-producing economy. The same trucks which today deliver grain or milk powder, tomorrow can be

carrying fertilizer and farm machinery.

- Ships with a 30,000-40,000 ton capacity such as for example the LASH (Lighter Aboard Ship), must be put into operation. These can transport a series of boats, which are already loaded with grain and which at the point of debarkation can become independent on the inland waters with the help of tugboats. The so-called "Ro-Ro Ships" (Roll-on/Roll-off), which can be loaded both fore and aft and can carry their own ramps, can transport trucks loaded with grain. A 20,000-ton ship can carry 250-300 trucks, loaded with food and other commodities, to their destinations.

- At the same time "long piers" should be towed to



Loaded barges lower off the stern platform elevator of Doctor Lykes, a Lighter Aboard Ship (LASH) vessel, which carries barges and comes equipped with a self-contained loading and unloading elevator. Cargo containers on the deck are loaded with grain and can become independent at the point of debarkation. Such technologies allow a rapid, effective relief effort.

selected mooring places, anchored there, in order to make it possible to transship arriving cargoes. These temporary piers can be used for several years before they have to be replaced by new permanent harbor facilities.

- During Phase 1 of the relief program, in which the main goal is to overcome acute hunger, already the prerequisites must be created for raising agricultural production. The goal must be to make food relief unnecessary in the medium term, during which the local agricultural economy will get the means in its hands to produce itself sufficient quantities of food. This involves of course, among other things, production and distribution of fertilizer and farm equipment as well as vaccines and medicines against livestock diseases, insecticides, as well as the implements needed to operate farms and, initially, technical advisers.

- Delivery and installation of water pumps and irrigation systems must be achieved as fast as possible. Simple energy supply systems must be set up on an emergency basis in rural areas, in order to stop further burning of wood which is causing large-scale deforestation and which leads to desertification. Bottled gas and simple gas stoves can be used as a stopgap until modern energy systems are brought online.

- Along with technical measures for a rapid improve-

ment of infrastructure, the "social infrastructure" must be upgraded. This includes construction of hospitals, supplying medicines and equipment, the training of technical personnel as well as the building of schools. Just the achievement of an adequate medical infrastructure in Africa would be an emergency program in itself.

- All these short-term projects must be embedded in medium and long-term great projects, in order to achieve a real development, which would prevent a relapse into underdevelopment. This presumes building up a continent-wide infrastructure. This encompasses the creation of a modern transport system and a modern water infrastructure system, which would not only supply people and livestock with drinking water, but would also serve for irrigation and make possible the greening of the deserts.

Two projects have the highest priority and should be the first to be undertaken. The water reserves in the region of the Zaire River must be made to serve for a wide-ranging improvement of the water supply of Central Africa. A second important project is the achievement of a west-east rail line between Dakar and Djibouti—a plan which is more than a century old and now finally should be carried out. Plans are already drawn up for numerous other regional projects, which should be put into operation as soon as possible.