

Africa Suffers Far Worse Than Food Crisis

by Lawrence K. Freeman

Africa is in the throes of the worst crisis it has faced since the 1960s “Winds of Change,” when nationalist movements emerged to force the colonialists to take down their flags. As the combined food and AIDS crisis striking the African continent today demonstrates, despite the removal of occupying troops, the colonialist looting polices are still firmly in place. At a recent Washington press conference of Ambassadors to the United States from Southern Africa, Malawi’s Tony Kandireo called the food shortage affecting Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, the “worst food shortage crisis in over half a century.”

Upwards of 13 million inhabitants of those six countries face starvation due to a cereal deficit of approximately 4 million metric tons (mts). This alone would qualify as a humanitarian emergency, but when added to the devastating effects of the spread of AIDS across Sub-Saharan Africa, conservatively estimated at 30 million infected, a process of population reduction is in effect—truthfully called a policy of genocide.

The intent of the policies of the International Monetary Fund/World Bank, the British Commonwealth, and their Anglophile supporters in the U.S. State Department, has been to depopulate Africa, to gain access to the continent’s wealth of raw materials (see accompanying article). Cecil Rhodes, at the end of the 19th Century, clearly spoke for the British Empire, when he boasted of his intent to remove the natives living on the land, in order to get the resources underneath the land.

Kissinger in Rhodes’ Footsteps

Less than a century later, on Dec. 10, 1974, U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger compiled a classified 250-page document, entitled “National Security Study Memorandum 200: Implications of Worldwide Population Growth for U.S. Security and Overseas Interests” (NSSM-200). In only slightly less offensive language, Kissinger echoed Rhodes’ outlook for Africa and the other “Less Developed Countries.” Kissinger, from his warped and racist geopolitical outlook, stated the “predicament” for the advanced sector countries as follows: that the growing population of the “Third World” nations would endanger the imperial “right” of Western access to the strategic minerals found within those nations. This was not merely Kissinger’s point of view, but represented then, as now, a faction of the Anglo-American establishment—spoken for by Harvard Professor Samuel Huntington and Car-

ter National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, among others—who believe that an elite world directorate should determine policy for the entire planet, especially for the control of vital resources and population levels, through the annihilation of the sovereign nation-state.

The following quotes from NSSM-200 illustrate that those disgusting population reduction are being continued against Africa today.

- “The location of known reserves of higher-grade ores of most minerals favors increasing dependence of all industrialized regions on imports from less developed countries. The real problems of mineral supplies lie, not in the basic physical sufficiency, but in the politico-economic issues of access, terms for exploration and exploitation.”

- “Whatever may be done to guard against interruption of supply, the U.S. economy will require large and increasing amounts of minerals from abroad, especially from less developed countries. That fact gives the U.S. interest in the political, economic and social stability of the supplying countries. *Wherever a lessening of population pressure through reduced birth rates can increase the prospects for such stability, population policy becomes relevant to resource supplies and to the economic interests of the United States.*”

The three African nations targetted in Kissinger’s report were Nigeria, Egypt, and Ethiopia, whose combined populations today are 250 million, over one-third of the continent’s total population.

Millions Threatened With Starvation

Of the estimated 4 million metric tons food deficit between now and March 2003, some 1.2 million mts are needed in emergency food aid immediately. Speaking from the audience at a July press conference, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Andrew Natsios reported that USAID has already put 132,000 mts on the ground in Africa, and is in the process of securing an additional 200,000 mts, suggesting that it is up to the European Union and others to provide the remaining 870,000 mts emergency food aid. U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) challenged Natsios: Either deliver the food aid with no delays in delivery, or, she warned, “I’ll come after you.”

Zimbabwe, the most affected of the six countries, has almost half of those endangered, with 6 million threatened by food shortages. Zimbabwe is in the midst of the longest dry spell in 20 years, with significant declines in maize and cereal production, and needs 1.5 million mts to keep nearly half of its population from starvation’s door. While the government is increasing production and buying cereal from other African nations, substantial aid is absolutely required for Zimbabwe to make it until next year’s harvest. The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) has appealed for \$60 million for food aid for Zimbabwe, but only one-third of that had been satisfied when the Washington press conference was held.

In Malawi, where maize production has declined 33%



Behind this Zambian boy (right) is the remains of a field of sorghum that is usually drought-resistant; the intense drought has killed these crops two years running. In Malawi, many thousands of children are malnourished like this three-year-old boy (left) in a Blantyre clinic.

from last year—and prices have increased 300%—due to excessive rain and floods, 3.2 million people, or 28% of the population, are in need of emergency food assistance. Zambia has also suffered a 25% decline in maize production, and estimates are that 2.3 million people, or 21% of the Zambian population, are in dire need of food assistance. Even before the current crisis, as of 2000, UNICEF had already reported that 59% of Zambian children under five are malnourished.

In Swaziland, a small nation of about 1 million, 140,000 citizens are facing immediate starvation, with an additional 80,000 soon to be in the same dire situation. That equals over one-fifth of the population threatened with extinction from food deficits alone. Lesotho with approximately twice as many people as Swaziland, has 20% of its population, 400-500,000, living in similar life-threatening circumstances.

Looking beyond just the six Southern African nations, equally tragic conditions prevail throughout the continent due to food shortages. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (D.R.C.), estimates are that 64% of the population living in the eastern provinces are undernourished. This region is under the military control of a Rwandan invading army, which has been illegally occupying one-third of the D.R.C. for four years. Overall, 16 million people living in the D.R.C. are estimated to be “seriously food insecure”—that is, almost one-third of the population.

Ethiopia has just revised its estimates of those in need of food assistance to 5.9 million, up from 3.6 million. This will require an additional 200,000 mts of food aid. Its neighbor

Eritrea, a country of 4 million, is expected to run out of food stocks by September. Namibia now reports that the lives of 500,000 of its citizens are at risk without the deliverance of emergency food aid.

The AIDS Factor

Three of the six nations facing life-threatening food shortages—Zimbabwe, Swaziland, and Mozambique—are also among the worst hit by the AIDS epidemic, and as a result are undergoing horrific demographic transformations. The spread of AIDS in Africa has not slowed down. The 1997 estimates were that 23 million Africans were infected. This jumped to 30 million in 2002, with the latest analysis forecasting 60 million by 2007 (see *EIR*, July 19). The extreme poverty in these countries, and the lack of any semblance of health care, has helped spread AIDS, such that the already-low life expectancy has declined

by more than one-third.

The AIDS killer epidemic has directly affected the food supply. As more Africans are infected and die from AIDS (AIDS has already killed over 7 million agricultural workers since 1985) there is a direct loss in food production from the already inefficient agricultural sector. As hardworking older men and women die off, taking their skills with them, young children drop out of school to take care of their dying parents and attempt to earn income for the survival of their household. Add to this the lack of health-care workers and dearth of drugs, and one can see vividly Kissinger’s population reduction policy in practice.

While it is essential that emergency supplies of food and money are provided to prevent mass starvation—and all the African countries praised the United States for its efforts in this direction—*much, much more is required*. Massive infrastructure development in roads, water management, electrical power, health care, and education, along with technologically advanced irrigation and farming equipment, is the only way to truly free Africa from this terrible level of existence. The only way to stop the spread of AIDS would be an “Apollo Moon Mission” type of program for Africa, which would include the application of the most scientifically advanced medical care, and infrastructure development for the entire continent.

These will not be done by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, but they would end, once and for all, Kissinger’s NSSM-200 policy of genocide for Africa.