

Developing Nations Must Increase Food Production

By ALPHONZO BELL, Congressman, 28th District

The United States can do much to eradicate hunger within its borders. Elsewhere in the world, however, individuals and governments grapple with the problem of sheer survival on its most basic level. Half of the people in the world cannot get enough to eat, largely because they cannot grow food needed to keep pace with burgeoning population.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reported more food than ever produced throughout the world in 1965. But while food production in-crease was 1½ per cent, population rose by 2 per cent.

India presents the most striking example of imbalance between food availability and population. Testimony this year before the House Committee on Agriculture emphasized current shortage of 20 per cent in India's grain supply. The most the average Indian has been able to hope for in one day has been 1.23 pounds of food, most of it rice. (The average American eats 4.66 pounds a day.) On the basis of population projections — from over 500 million now to 700 million in 1980—it is evident India will never again be able to feed her people unless the birth rate is greatly reduced.

THE FOOD CRISIS plagues most developing nations. Rates of population versus agricultural growth do not make prospects for alleviation seem favorable. In most of Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, and in parts of Africa, population grows so rapidly the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization has estimated doubled food supplies by the end of this century will merely keep most people there at the same low existence level as today.

There, 10,000 people die every day because they have not been able to get enough to eat. Half the children born in these areas will die of starvation in infancy. Seven out of every 10 that live will suffer lifelong physical or mental disability because of inadequate nourishment.

Current population trends and agricultural production levels have led to predictions of massive famines by mid-1970 for India, Pakistan, Communist China, Indonesia, Iran, Turkey, Egypt, and a number of Latin American countries. Possibly billions of people will be affected.

The United States, through direct assistance and through participation in international organizations, has helped to feed the hungry around the world. More than 100 million people are now benefiting directly from our Food for Peace program alone. This program will expire in December, 1966.

LEGISLATION pending before the House of Representatives, while in effect extending current food aid, is more farsighted in placing emphasis on self-help and on a nation's utilization of its own resources. The legislation also expresses recognition of the complexity of a world food shortage that cannot be solved by American wheat alone. It contains important sections dealing with family planning, disease control, nutrition and sanitation.

We have not hesitated to share our abundance. But we cannot share it forever. It is more important to share our technical knowledge on a broader scale and to encourage a world-wide agricultural and health revolution. The alternative is massive famine and political revolution. Freedom from hunger is the fundamental freedom that may, in the end, determine all others.

Lithography Exhibit

Alumni of the Tamarind Lithography Workshop will present an exhibit of prints in the Palos Verdes Library Gallery, 2400 Via Campesina, Palos Verdes Estates, from June 3 through 29. The exhibit is sponsored by the Palos Verdes Community Arts Association.

The Preview Reception, which is open to the public, will be held Friday from 8 to 10 p.m.

The artists sd9znwisthetie Artists include William Brice, Robert Hansen, John Paul Jones, Emerson Woolfer, Lee Mullican, John McLaughlin, Joyce Treiman, Harold Altman, and Richard Hunt.

The Tamarind Lithography Workshop of Los Angeles was started by June Wayne who was frustrated by the fact that in the United States there was no artisan-printers qualified to work with artists, according to Mrs. Alfred Barton, exhibition chairman.

She was given a grant by the Ford Foundation and in 1960 opened a workshop. "Since then many famous artists have come to see and conquer lithography," Mrs. Barton explains.

It also trains students to become lithographers and in a lab, artisans experiment with new lithographic methods. It is a non-profit organization and has received additional grants to continue its work. It has also inspired the opening of other workshops throughout the country.

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