

# U.S. Should Be Wary of World Food Pool

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If we could separate hunger from politics, perhaps statements coming out of the World Food Conference at Rome would sound more honest and reasonable.

But that is not the case. Our sympathy for hungry children is being used by political revolutionaries as leverage to get the United States set up as a perpetual Santa Claus for a worldwide United Nations welfare and food stamp program.

A number of well-meaning organizations and individuals are being carried along with the tide of the campaign, whose goals include bringing all nations into a single world government.

We must help to feed the hungry, and are doing so, but we must be cautious about entangling our government and food supplies in a scheme to create a global economic dictatorship.

The campaign for a world food reserve has been under way for years. To read or listen to the emotional discourses, one might get the impression that American farmers are hoarding the world's food supplies for the benefit of overfed consumers.

While it may be true that few Americans go hungry and a number may overeat, we export more food than any other country, and a great deal of it is given away or sold at less than market prices.

Declarations made by President Ford, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and other spokesmen in favor of a world food bank have not pointed out the



political implications and hazards that this country would face in such an arrangement.

**Agricultural interests** and our government have worked vigorously for more than half a century to develop export markets for surplus farm products. Wheat, corn, soybean and grain sorghum producers have sent sales promotions teams to every continent.

Trade relations have been opened with just about every country in the world, including Russia and China, but we have continued our aid programs to countries hit by crop failures, drouth and disasters.

American agriculture is not withholding food from the world, because we can not possibly eat all that we grow. One estimate is that we produce enough food for three times our population and almost enough to feed one-fifth of the world's population. We must export, or else.

"The more we export, the more our farmers can produce," Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz says. "In a society in which consumers will not stand for high food prices, farm income can improve

only with increasing volume and added efficiency." High production helps hold down food costs for American consumers.

If the United States is not withholding food supplies from the world, why are political forces trying to crowd us into an unequal partnership with unproductive countries?

One answer comes from Dr. A. H. Boerma, FAO director-general, which is sponsoring the world food conference. Boerma said recently: "Any purist concept of international free trade in food is dangerously outdated."

Boerma then added that major cereal exporting countries (including the United States) must "take measures to ensure an orderly management of available supplies, notably by setting aside enough grain to meet urgent needs" of countries whose population increases have outrun their food production.