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# People Production Outrunning Food

**A** MERICANS respond as individuals and as a nation to pleas to feed starving children, help disaster victims or assist anybody who is suffering from affliction or difficulty.

It is commendable that the public is concerned about the drought in Africa, said to be the worst in 50 years on a continent that always has known famine as a close neighbor.

It is good that we are sharing our abundance with these starving people, but some facts about life in the Third World are seldom mentioned in emotional appeals for funds.

First, there is unwarranted criticism that our government is doing too little, too late. We should take a longer look at our part in feeding the world's hungry.

Since the end of World War II the United States has given more than \$40 billion in food aid to needy nations, more than any other country. The United States has provided technical training to more than 70,000 agriculturists from developing countries.

The programs include PL 480 and Food for Peace, Point Four, the Marshall Plan, CARE, HOPE, the Peace Corps, the Agency for International Development, and the Green Revolution.

Most of these programs were designed to help people to utilize modern farming methods that would enable them to grow enough food for their steadily increasing populations. Oklahoma State University (then Oklahoma A&M) worked in Ethiopia 18 years to help establish an agricultural college.

Political changes apparently have erased most of what was accomplished. Today millions are starving in that nation in spite of huge sums being allocated as food aid. Officials have been accused of spending money on public buildings instead of food and of withholding food from Eritrea, whose residents are regarded as being disloyal.

Lack of transportation and storage facilities, pervasive poverty, war, civil strife and mass migrations of refugees to cities accentuate Africa's hunger problems.

Drought and lack of food cause starvation and death, but an underlying persistent problem is that "Developing Nations" produce primarily one thing: More people.

The latest estimate is that the earth's 4.8 billion people will increase to 6.2 billion by 2000. Experts say that 24 million people provide close to one-fourth of the world's food.

Africa's population is projected to increase from the present 531 million to 855 million in 15 years. More food is being grown but per capita supplies are declining. People production still is outrunning food production.

Are productive nations of the world creating a permanent welfare clientele of needy nations who will always depend upon our shipments of wheat and cash to help them survive?

Some of these poorer nations have valuable natural resources and a few turn out products for world trade, but all of them are producing millions of children for whom there is no food.