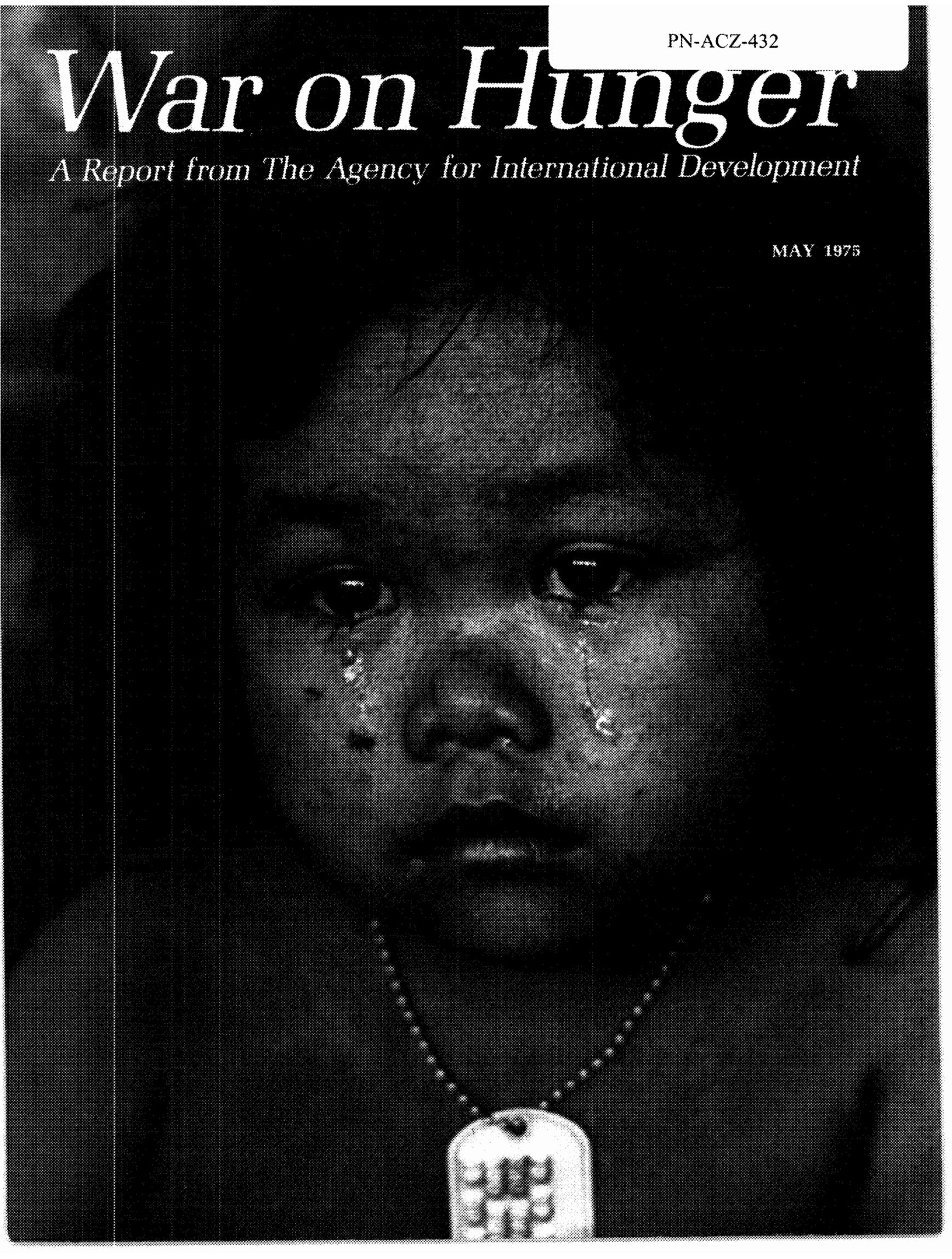


PN-ACZ-432

War on Hunger

A Report from The Agency for International Development

MAY 1975



War on Hunger

A Report from The Agency for International Development

Daniel Parker, AID Administrator
Clinton F. Wheeler, Director, Office of Public Affairs



IN THIS ISSUE	MAY 1975	Volume IX, No. 5
To Ease Human Suffering		1
Coming Home		3
Alexanderina Shuler		
On Capitol Hill		5
The Sahel: An Approach to the Future		7
David Shear and Roy Stacy		
'Survival in the Sahel'		15
A Question of Attitude		16
Helen Nash		
In Print: Toward Better Child Care		19
Dr. Jack P. Keeve		
In Brief		20
Quotes		20
The Latin American Connection		21

COVER: A child's tears bear mute testimony to the suffering caused by recent fighting in Indo-China. (See page 1)

Cover photo by
David Hume Kennerly

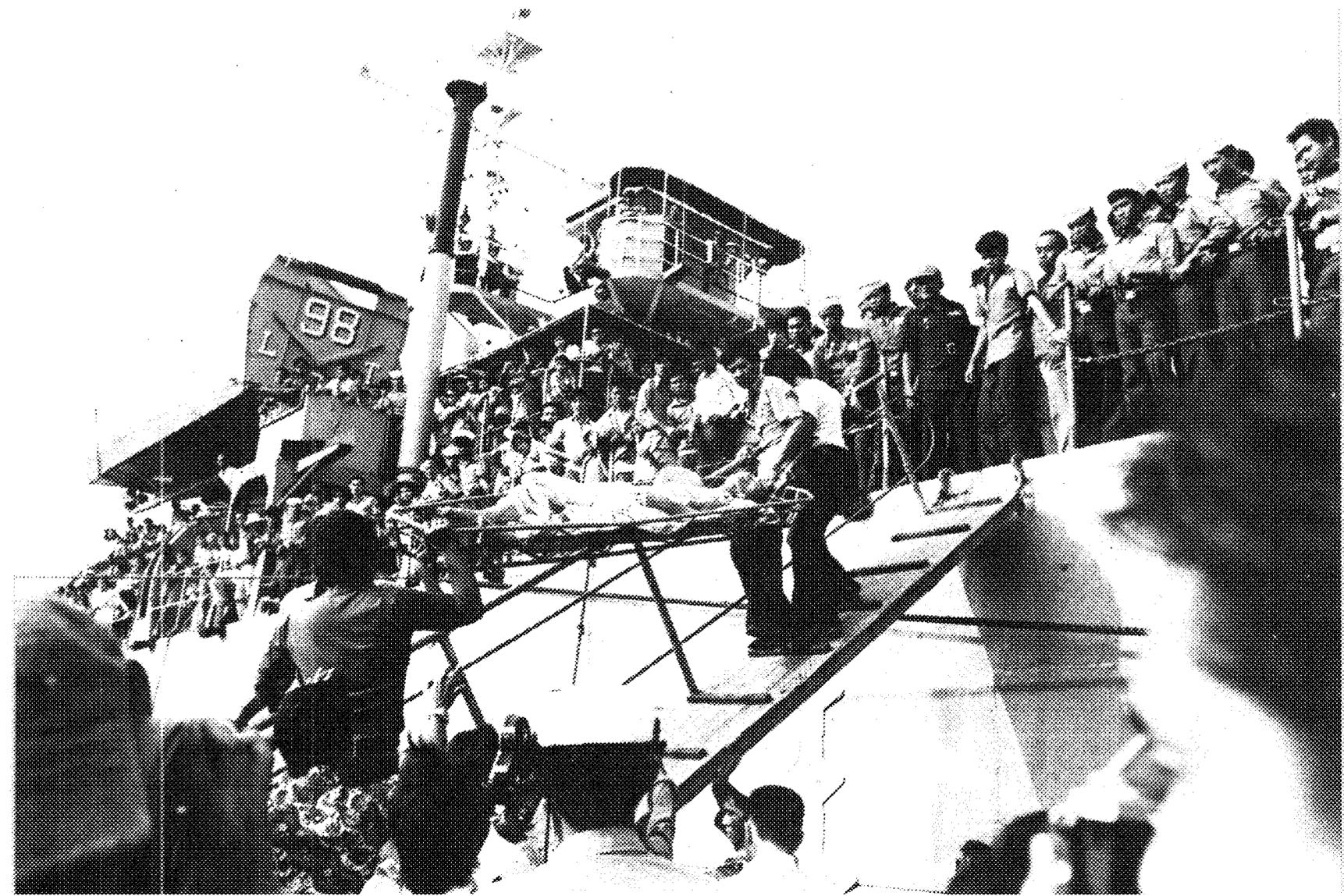
Publications Division
Office of Public Affairs, AID
Room 4953, State Department Building
Washington, D. C. 20523. (202) 632-9141
Jerry E. Rosenthal, Division Chief
David L. Rhoad, Editor
Betty Snead, Assistant Editor

War on Hunger is available without cost to persons who request to be placed on the mailing list. Readers are invited to submit news items, original manuscripts (including speeches) and photos on any aspect of international development. Contents of this publication may be reprinted or excerpted freely, unless otherwise noted.



Vietnamese families packed their belongings on whatever transport was available as they fled renewed fighting during April.

AID assistance for the refugees, provided in some cases through U.S. voluntary agencies, included food and medical supplies.



An international effort was mounted during the early weeks of the communist offensive to bring refugees by sea from Danang

to areas farther south which were free of fighting. AID provided funds for U.S. ships to participate in the evacuation.

TO EASE HUMAN SUFFERING

The Agency for International Development provided major new refugee relief assistance to South Vietnam following a stepped up offensive by North Vietnamese forces in March. AID Administrator Daniel Parker, appointed by President Ford on March 29 as his Special Coordinator for International Disaster Assistance, headed up U.S. efforts to rush food and other basic necessities to thousands of newly homeless families in the war-torn country.

Key humanitarian concerns of AID relief operations were the transportation of refugees to safe relocation areas where food, shelter, and medical supplies were available and assistance for an orphan airlift ordered by President Ford to accelerate the adoption process for Vietnamese children under the care of U.S. voluntary agencies.

In appearances during April before Congressional committees, Mr. Parker said 100,000 metric tons of Food for Peace rice had been authorized for emer-

gency food programs in Vietnam, enough to provide one million refugees with 500 grams each of rice per day for six months, and 13,500 tons of blended fortified foods, to be used primarily for supplementary feeding programs with an emphasis on children.

The United States, with these additional allotments, committed over 227,000 metric tons of food and other products under the Food for Peace program for fiscal year 1975. The commodities and transportation costs were valued at about \$116 million.

Mr. Parker pointed out that when the North Vietnamese offensive began, "South Vietnam already carried with it the difficult burden of feeding and caring for more than 265,000 refugees and war victims at an annual cost of millions." He said as the North Vietnamese columns moved southward from the northern provinces, refugees numbering in the hundreds of thousands fled to the coastal regions and other areas still controlled by the Government of South Vietnam.

Mr. Parker said 313,345 new refugees had registered with the Vietnamese Government and a total of 93,000 refugees had been lifted to safe havens by U.S. ships by April 8. Another estimated 40,000 were lifted on foreign flag vessels. By April 23, almost 700,000 refugees were registered with the government.

"AID is working with voluntary agencies together with the international institutions, as well as the Government of South Vietnam to help meet the needs of refugees," Mr. Parker told the Congressional committees. He noted as an example recent Food for Peace shipments of fortified foods for use by voluntary agencies in providing nutritional food supplements for the most severely affected children in the Vietnamese refugee population.

The private voluntary organizations have had extensive programs in Vietnam. Fifteen organizations had long-term grant agreements and contracts with AID to work in child welfare, rehabilitation of refugees, and in public health. Among the largest of the voluntary agency relief programs in Vietnam were those of CARE, Catholic Relief Services, Church World Services, the International Rescue Committee and the World Vision Relief Organization.

"A small but important part of the relief activities in which the voluntary agencies have played a critical role," Mr. Parker said, "has been in connection

with orphans. Children from orphanages in the upper part of South Vietnam were transferred to orphanages in Saigon, making for badly overcrowded conditions."

Among the children there were an estimated 2,000 orphans eligible for intercountry adoptions under the sponsorship of voluntary agencies.

"As the President's Special Coordinator, I decided that we should accelerate this process, and we started the airlift, by both military and military charter planes," Mr. Parker said.

As of April 22, about 1,600 orphans had been brought out of Saigon, and over 50 orphans from Cambodia.

Mr. Parker testified before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on April 8 that AID stood ready "to provide transportation services in response to the enormous outpouring of interest among the American people in providing safe and warm homes to children orphaned in South Vietnam. We . . . are well aware of the important conditions under which any such operation must be undertaken. The welfare of the child involved is the paramount concern.

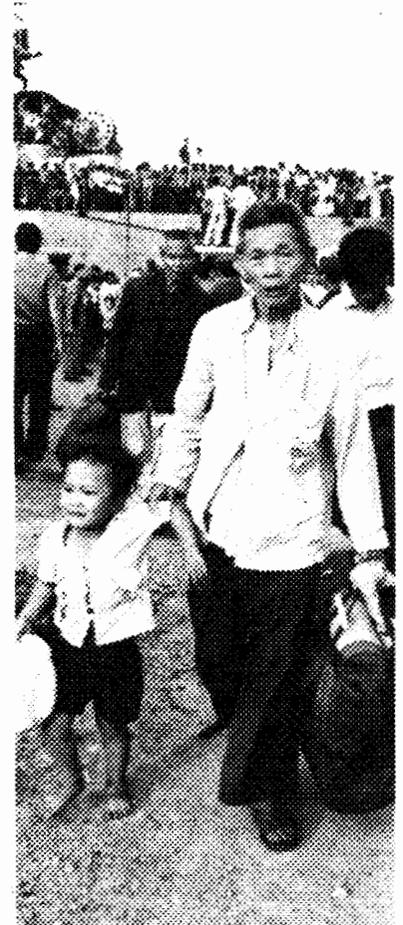
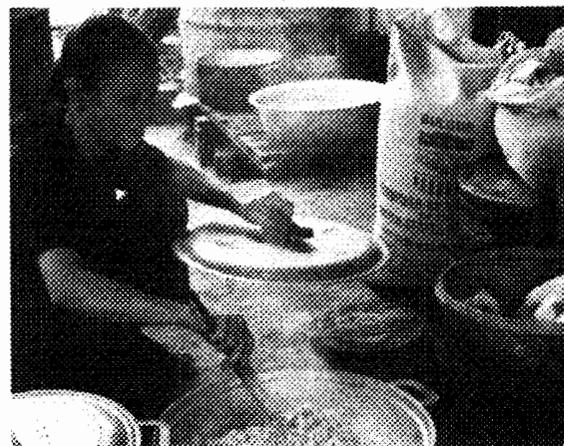
"It is our intention to assist as best we can in assuring that adoptions which do occur are in the best interest of the children concerned and in the best interest of the United States."



A young refugee girl looks after the family's remaining possessions.



Above: Saigon orphanages were crowded as orphans from other parts of South Vietnam arrived. Below: Bulgar sent by AID is prepared for the children.



A grandfather who fled from Da-nang hangs on to his grandson.

COMING HOME

By Alexanderina Shuler

Dulles International Airport in suburban Northern Virginia, April 10. It was 4:25 p.m. and a small crowd of people waited anxiously at TWA Gate I for Flight 64 from San Francisco. It was not the usual gathering of friends and family waiting to greet the passengers. These people held baby bottles and stuffed animals and huddled together for moral support as television crews, photographers and reporters stood by.

Suddenly the doors opened, flood-lights went on and startled passengers were quickly ushered aside by friends and relatives who whispered "there are Vietnamese orphans coming off the plane."

By the time the seven infants carried by U.S. volunteer escorts from U.S. airlines and one eight-year-old boy disembarked, a large crowd had gathered to watch grateful parents (one couple adopted two babies) claim their children, matching adoption papers with identification tags on the children's ankles.

"O'Sullivan baby here," called out an escort, and Angela O'Sullivan, a secretary working for the Agency for International Development, stepped forward to claim Toby Erin.

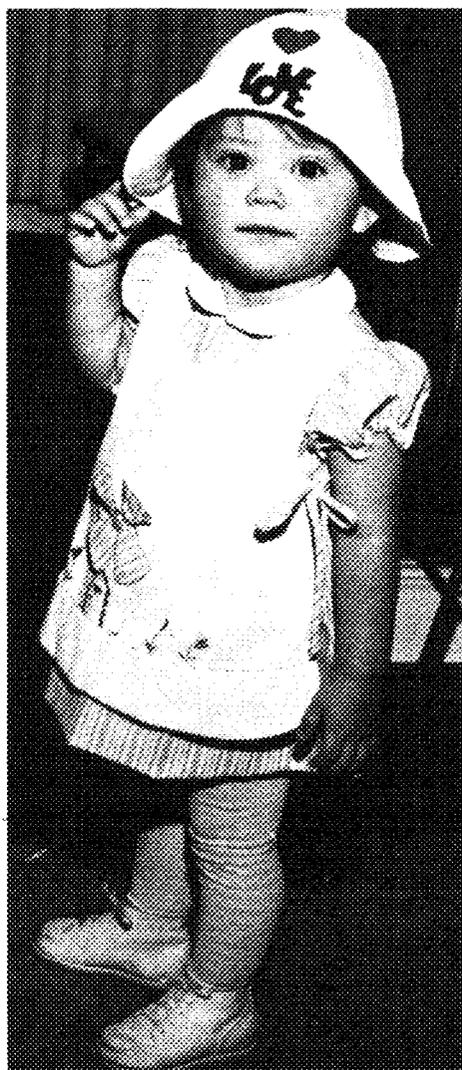
Angela joined the Agency in 1968 as a secretary in AID's Vietnam Mission and soon found herself spending all of her free time helping out in local orphanages.

Irish Good Luck

It was during a trip to the Quang Ngai orphanage that Angela found Toby—on St. Patrick's Day 1974.

"She was three months old then and I fell in love with her. She was such a beautiful baby and so alert and attentive to what was going on about her. My thought at

Ms. Shuler is Editor of Front Lines, an internal AID publication.



TOBY ERIN O'SULLIVAN

the time was 'she'll never make it here' and so I started working on getting her into a Saigon orphanage." She managed to have Toby transferred to Saigon before she herself was transferred back to Washington last September.

"I decided to try and adopt but was afraid that because I was single I wouldn't stand a chance," Angela says. "But the Catholic Relief sisters at the Saigon orphanage helped get my papers processed at that end. In the meantime my home study was being conducted by the Washington, D.C. Welfare people here."

When Angela heard about the North Vietnamese offensive "I pan-

icked," she says. "To my knowledge the immigration papers were not complete and I was terrified that I would never see Toby again. I called California where the children were being processed and asked if they could locate Toby among them."

The relief Angela felt when the reply came back positive is beyond description she says.

Toby Erin now is 16 months old but looks more like a two-year old and, according to Angela, is in fine physical condition.

Knows the Word 'Momma'

"She is very outgoing and calls me momma. But I think that's the only word she knows and she probably will call everyone momma until she learns more English!"

Another baby who arrived on the same flight belonged to Harriet and Bob Hanlon of Reston, Virginia. As American Airline flight attendant Diane Story called out "Hanlon baby," Harriet reached for 17-month-old Mai, who eagerly fell into her arms.

Looking even tinier in a blue University of Miami sweatshirt over her diaper, sleeves rolled up, Mai clung to Harriet. No expression crossed her face, her eyes quietly watched whoever stood before her.

In spite of what was known to be a harrowing few weeks for the children as they were evacuated from their orphanage south of Saigon to the capital city for transport to the United States, they appeared to be almost stoic, resigned to whatever happened next. None cried. Most had skin infections and two had chicken pox among other physical problems picked up as they traveled thousands of miles, passed from one caring stranger to another as they came closer to safety in a new home complete with parents.

Mai also was suffering from still another problem—"orphan syndrome". As well wishers stepped

forward to congratulate the Hanlons. Mai reached out to each and every person to be held.

"Vietnamese children who have spent time in an orphanage crave physical contact," Harriet said. "They need to be touched and held and reassured."

Finally, Harriet and Bob weaved their way through the crowd to take Mai to peace and quiet and to begin the long adjustment to a new world.

Throughout the 15-minute ride home in the car Mai sat slumped against Harriet, struggling to keep her eyes open, exhausted.

The family arrived home to be greeted by Harriet's mother and their two sons, Greg and Mark, ages 7 and 4, respectively.

The two boys took to their new sister immediately and for the first time, Mai appeared to respond to another human being as Mark spoke gently to her, handing her toys. She accumulated a large pile in her lap and finally picked one up and handed it to Mark with an ever so faint smile.

She quickly consumed a bowl of home-made chicken soup with rice.

"My sister-in-law is Vietnamese," Harriet said. "She called from Pennsylvania to suggest some foods that Mai probably would like."

There was no question about liking the soup. Mai wanted more but Harriet was reluctant especially since she suspected the baby was dehydrated.

Clean clothing, a little white pa-

jama outfit with pink flowers, was next after a gentle rubdown with baby lotion to sooth her itching skin. Harriet tried to place Mai on the floor but she cried.

"I plan on holding her for the next two weeks whether she wants it or not," Harriet said. "I'm just so glad she's finally here."

The Hanlons have more than a general interest in Mai as representative of the thousands of Vietnamese orphans.

Bob said their interest started when his brother-in-law, Mike Wehner, served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam.

"We'd get these letters about the children and how pathetically sad they were. Mike told us about the Vietnamese people, their culture and customs and their traditions. We came to have a deep respect for their way of life and their philosophy."

Mike came back to the States after a second tour in Vietnam and soon sent for a Vietnamese woman he had met there. They were married and as the Wehners visited the Hanlons, Harriet and Bob learned even more about Vietnam, the country and its peoples.

"We soon found ourselves talking more and more about the orphans and adoption," Bob remembered. "Finally one day we looked at each other and decided to do something about it and filed adoption papers."

Anticipating red tape and fully realizing the restrictive adoption

qualification standards of the Vietnamese Government, they started filing in mid-1972. At that time they didn't qualify—they were married for only seven years and the Vietnam Government required a couple filing for intercountry adoption to be married for 10 years, for instance. But they calculated that by the time they finished their paperwork they would meet the dozens of other qualifications.

"We heard late last fall that we would be receiving a child," Harriet recalled, "but when the new North Vietnamese offensive began, my heart stopped."

Weeks of Suspense

The weeks that followed were torturous for the Hanlons. Dozens of well-wishers, friends and relatives called to ask about the progress of evacuating those babies suitable for adoption out of Vietnam, to report rumors, to console and comfort them and to provide moral support.

The Hanlons kept in touch with AID's efforts—"Operation Babylift"—through a neighbor who works for the Agency.

"At least we could find out what was fact and verify rumors as such so we didn't go completely insane with worry. Our local adoption agency, Pierce Warwick of Washington, D.C., working through Friends of Children of Vietnam in Denver, Colorado, reassured us they would contact us as soon as they received word Mai was en route."

The call came at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, April 10, while Harriet was at her job as a Fairfax County "homebound teacher".

How do you sum up more than two years of hope and several weeks of anxiety as you wait to hear if your child, who you've never seen except in one tiny picture, is safe?

Harriet and Bob shook their heads unable to find the words.

"We're just so grateful," she said, hugging Mai closely to her—each drawing comfort from the other.



Harriet and Bob Hanlon feed their new daughter, Mai, some home-made chicken soup. Mark, their youngest son, immediately established a protective 'big brother' relationship.



ON CAPITOL HILL

President Ford on March 27 signed the fiscal 1975 foreign aid appropriations bill "with considerable misgivings." The bill, calling for slightly more than \$2 billion in AID funds, represented reductions totaling nearly \$900 million from the original Administration proposal.

Both the House and Senate approved the bill March 25, after a Conference Committee had ironed out the differences between their respective measures. The House had voted 193-185 to approve \$1.9 billion for AID programs; the Senate by voice vote approved \$2.2 billion.

The final compromise, totaling \$2.037 billion, reduced the amount previously authorized for development assistance as a whole from \$849 million to \$574 million, with food programs taking the brunt of the cut.

The President, in a statement accompanying his signature on the bill, commented:

"In the areas of humanitarian and development assistance, the \$200 million reduction in food and nutrition funds renders our efforts to alleviate world hunger all the more difficult."

Expressing disappointment at the slashes made in the bill as a whole, Mr. Ford, in signing the bill, said he had done so "with considerable misgivings. The considerable reduction in overseas assistance programs—which the Congress authorized only three months ago—could prove detrimental to American interests at home and abroad.

"The Administration sought appropriations that would reflect the same spirit of constructive compromise that characterized our cooperative efforts in December," the President continued, referring to the authorizing legislation. "I continue to believe that the interests of the United States in an increasingly interdependent community of nations require our purposeful and responsible participation.

"Such participation is impossible if the Administration's best estimates of a balanced foreign assistance program are subjected to reductions of these drastic dimensions."

Although the cuts in appropriations deal a serious blow to AID's continuing efforts to reach the poorest majorities in the developing nations, a priority mandated by Congress in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1973, the fiscal 1975 bill provides \$35 million for famine and disaster relief and is considered responsive to the Administration's request for development purposes in the Middle East. The Middle East Special Requirements Fund of \$100 million contains provisions for programs in Syria, while the \$660 million for security supporting assistance will be allocated mainly to Israel, Egypt, and Jordan.

Mr. Ford also expressed his disappointment over the reduction in contributions to international organizations from the original request of \$153.9 million to \$125 million.

"The impact of this reduction," he said, "will be felt in the lessening of our financial support to the

United Nations Development Program. Our deep involvement in the UNDP over the years has been seen by many nations as symbolic of our commitment to work through multilateral as well as bilateral channels to assist the developing world."

Some of the highlights of the development assistance appropriations:

- \$300 million for Food and Nutrition, as compared with \$234 million in the House bill, \$450 million in the Senate bill; and \$546.3 million requested by the Administration.

- \$123 million for Population and Health, compared with \$115 million, House bill and \$145 million Senate; \$145 million requested.

- \$82 million for Education and Human Resources, the same in both bills; \$90 million requested.

- \$37 million for Selected Development Problems, the same as the House and \$40.5 million, Senate; \$53 million requested.

- \$30 million for Selected Countries and Organizations, same as House and \$32 million, Senate; \$39 million requested.



Economic Assistance* FY 1948-1974

(millions of dollars)

Fiscal Year	Authorization		Appropriation	
	Request ^a	Congress ^b	Request ^a	Congress ^c
1948-49	\$7,370.0	\$6,913.0	\$7,370.0	\$6,446.3
1950	4,280.0	4,280.0	4,280.0	3,728.4
1951	2,950.0	2,762.5	2,950.0	2,262.5
1952	2,197.0	1,585.7	2,197.0	1,540.4
1953	2,475.0	1,894.3	2,499.0	1,782.1
1954	1,543.2	1,475.7	1,543.2	1,301.5
1955	1,798.1	1,571.9	1,788.5	1,528.8
1956	1,812.8	1,851.8	1,812.8	1,681.1
1957	1,860.0	1,815.1	1,860.0	1,749.1
1958	1,964.4	1,786.9	1,964.4	1,428.9
1959	2,142.1	2,070.6	2,142.1	1,933.1
1960	2,330.0	2,176.8	2,330.0	1,925.8
1961	2,875.0	2,786.3	2,875.0	2,631.4
1962	2,883.5	2,559.5	2,883.5	2,314.6
1963	3,281.3	3,074.8	3,281.3	2,573.9
1964	3,124.6	2,602.1	3,124.6	2,000.0
1965	2,461.7	2,452.0	2,461.7	2,195.0
1966	2,704.5	2,605.0	2,704.5	2,463.0
1967	3,443.4	2,628.0	2,469.0	2,143.5
1968	2,785.6	2,165.0	2,630.4	1,895.6
1969	2,554.2	1,609.8	2,498.5	1,380.6
1970	2,210.0	1,624.2	2,210.0	1,424.9
1971	2,093.7	2,093.7	2,008.0	1,733.9
1972	2,355.2	1,868.6	2,355.2	1,718.2
1973	1,970.5	1,026.5	2,256.6	1,664.2
1974	1,760.6	1,554.7	1,894.2	1,591.1

* Excludes Investment Guaranty Program (borrowing Authority and Appropriations) and OPIC.

^a Adjusted to fiscal year basis and including Executive Branch adjustments.

^b Adjusted to fiscal year basis.

^c Includes borrowing authority (other than for Investment Guaranties) during Marshall Plan period April 1948 to 1952.

FY 1975 AID BILL

(millions of dollars)

Development Assistance	Original Request	Revised Request	Authorization Level	Appropriations		Final
				House	Senate	
<i>Food Production and Nutrition</i>	\$546.3	\$546.3	\$500.0	\$234.0	\$450.0	\$300.0
<i>Population and Health</i>	145.0	145.0	165.0	115.0	145.0	125.0
<i>Education and Human Resources</i>	90.0	90.0	92.0	82.0	82.0	82.0
<i>Selected Development Problems</i>	53.0	53.0	53.0	37.0	40.5	37.0
<i>Selected Countries and Organizations</i>	39.0	39.0	39.0	30.0	32.0	30.0
Subtotal	873.3	873.3	849.0	498.0	749.5	574.0
International and Miscellaneous						
<i>UNDP and Other</i>	153.9	153.9	165.0	115.0	140.0	125.0
<i>UN Environment Fund</i>	10.0	10.0	10.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
<i>American Schools and Hospitals Abroad</i>	10.0	19.0	19.0	17.5	10.0	17.5
<i>Indus Basin, Loans</i>	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2
<i>Indus Basins, Grants</i>	14.5	14.5	14.5	9.0	9.0	9.0
<i>Contingency Fund</i>	30.0	30.0	5.0	5.0	1.8	1.8
<i>Famine and Disaster Relief</i>	—	40.0	40.0	30.0	35.0	35.0
<i>Portugal and Territories</i>	—	25.0	25.0	20.0	25.0	25.0
<i>AID Administrative</i>	45.0	45.0	45.0	40.0	40.0	40.0
<i>State Administrators</i>	5.9	5.9	5.9	4.8	4.8	4.8
Subtotal (Development Assistance, International and Miscellaneous)	1,142.8	1,216.8	1,178.6	744.5	1,020.3	837.3
Security						
<i>Indochina Postwar Reconstruction</i>	939.8	939.8	617.0	440.0	440.0	440.0
<i>Supporting Assistance</i>	385.5	660.0	660.0	660.0	660.0	660.0
<i>Middle East Special Requirements</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
TOTAL—AID	\$2,568.1	\$2,916.6	\$2,555.6	\$1,944.5	\$2,220.3	\$2,037.3



The six sub-Saharan countries which make up the Sahel are faced with major problems: a deteriorating ecological base,

debilitation of their herds, and social dislocations of the pastoral people who farm the semi-arid land.

THE SAHEL

an approach to the future

By David Shear and Roy Stacy

The mass starvation that resulted from the Sahel drought from 1968-1973 no longer threatens that region. Emergency action by donors and specialists from developed countries throughout the world has prevented the disaster from reaching even larger proportions than the estimated 100,000 persons dead and the loss of some 40 percent of the goats, sheep, cattle, and camels of the region.

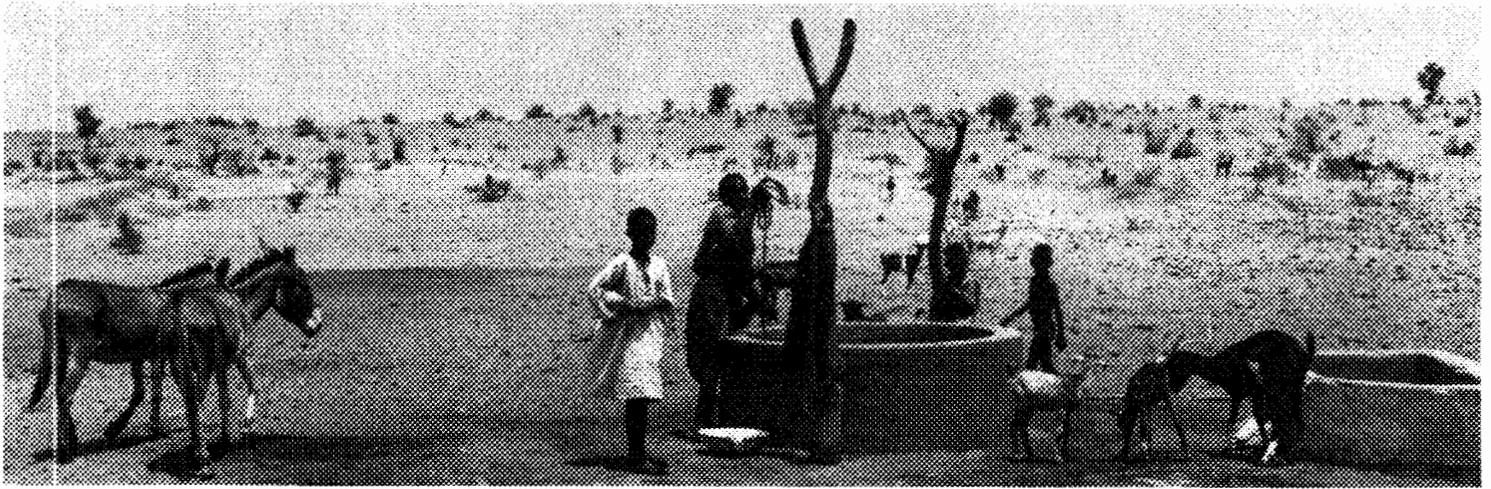
After good spring rains in 1974, the fall harvest has been 90 percent normal. But a human crisis remains. A deteriorating ecological base, debilitation of herds, and social dislocations of the pastoral peoples who farm and graze the semi-arid lands of the six

Mr. Shear is Director of AID's Office of Central and West African Regional Affairs, Bureau for Africa. Mr. Stacy is Chief Planning Officer in AID's Regional Economic Development Service Office, West Africa.

sub-Saharan countries that make up the Sahel—Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Upper Volta—still present a set of difficult, interrelated problems. If further catastrophes are to be prevented, new approaches must be taken.

What the United States learned through its intensified activity in the Sahel during the drought years indicates that there are good possibilities for the region's recovery. The challenges are complex. The approach that the Agency for International Development has evolved suggests new departures in planning and development and it does not suggest that the United States undertake the burden alone. Nor is the program a patchwork series of actions but rather a plan for the overall development of an entire region.

The development program for the Sahel which AID has recommended was developed from its experience



Development projects should help reverse the ecological deterioration of the Sahel. Conservation of land and water resources

is an essential prerequisite to significantly increasing food production and reducing the need for large-scale food imports.

working with donors from many nations who cooperated on short and medium term programs in response to the emergency. This program is a long-term approach that coordinates the worldwide efforts of national and private agencies into a regional phase that would involve the Sahelian governments, governments of contingent states which share their climatic and agricultural zones, and interstate and regional organizations. With such a coordinated approach to improve the efficiency of financial and technical assistance—for the first time in an area-wide approach—AID believes that one of the world's poorest regions has some prospects for a better future and even perhaps for self-sustaining growth.

An Overall Development Strategy

In recent foreign assistance legislation, the U.S. Congress declared that it supports "the initiative of the United States Government in undertaking consultations and planning with the countries concerned, with other concerned international and regional organizations toward the development and support of a comprehensive long-term African Sahel Development Program." In response to this Congressional mandate, AID's Africa Bureau is now completing a multi-year planning effort, undertaken in collaboration with the six Sahelian states, and with other interested bilateral and international donors. This multi-year Development Assistance Plan entails a series of programs that donors can collectively support to solve key regional development problems. At the same time, this Development Assistance Plan coordinates and unifies the thinking of all parties in an overall development goal for a five-year period. The goal is simply to prevent food shortages, both immediate and long term, with maximum concentration on social and economic equity. This means creating an agriculture that is less susceptible to drought and that has a more solid base for increased production and farmer income. Because the food shortages have been so great and affect

so many persons in the poorest segment of these societies, the issue of equitable food allocations is most important. But this must not preempt solutions for the overall food problem in the Sahel area. Therefore, both extensive and intensive programs need to be developed.

A parallel and supporting goal is reversing ecological deterioration in the area. Conservation of land and water resources is an essential prerequisite to restoring the area's ability to feed itself. Prolonged environmental damage means continued food deficits and new demands for food from developed countries whose supplies are shrinking. The Sahel is understandably the focal point because it has suffered the greatest environmental damage. Further environmental damage in the Sahel may threaten the production base of the coastal states to the south because of population migrations and over-cropping.

The Sahel region is a very special geographic area and is, therefore, the focus of special kinds of assistance. The fragile environment may not be able to support "standard" assistance approaches because some development interventions inadvertently worsen ecological imbalances. Programs must, therefore, work for both food production and ecological reclamation. In such areas of marginal natural resources, programs cost more, are more difficult to manage, and must be longer term. The overall purpose of this new regional planning approach is to fundamentally alter the environment and expand the now narrow margin of survival.

A strategy to achieve these goals will need to include:

- Programs aimed at bettering the life situation of the rural population of the Sahel, specifically the small cereal cultivators and pastoral herdsmen who form the vast majority of the population that have been affected by drought and the paucity of development opportunities.
- Programs aimed at converting major resources in a highly effective manner, emphasizing the changing

of deficit areas into important food and cash crop producing areas, thereby closing the food gap in the region:

- Programs aimed at arresting and reversing the progressive deterioration of the physical and human resource base.

- Programs selectively aimed at improving the administrative and management capacities of national and local governments as well as local institutions to meet the priority social and economic development needs of their population.

Increasing Food Production

To begin solving the key problems of food and crop production, the people of the Sahel must have enough food to sustain a quality of life beyond merely replacing energy now expended in the inefficient production of that food. The trend in West African countries' crop production over the past decade indicates a slow production increase overall, with a marked increase in export crops and a 1-2 percent annual decrease in the per capita production of food crops. The relative decline of food crops, combined with the effects of the prolonged drought, means that very many people in the Sahel now live below subsistence levels. There also is a strong correlation between environmental deterioration and chronic food shortages.

There are seven areas that continue to restrict food and crop production. These are:

Limited Productivity of Rural Labor: Most food crop production in the region has been realized through hand peasant labor and frequently slash and burn cultivation. The conversion of labor energy into

food is generally a very inefficient one, and the introduction of adaptable levels of technology are needed to assure a greater return for labor inputs.

Missing Elements in an Agricultural Technical Package: One of the reasons the productivity of labor has been fairly static in the region is that farmers have not had access to certain intermediate technologies while other elements of "sure" technical packages have yet to be developed. For instance, there has been little development of improved seeds for food crops and chemical fertilizers have been impossible to obtain at economic prices. The most spectacular results in agricultural research have been obtained from technological packages with fertilizer responsive varieties and with irrigation. Yet for the vast majority of rural farmers in this region, these inputs have not been within reach because of their cost.

Insufficient Exploitation of Available Surface and Ground Water Resources: It is certain that any major long-term increases in food production in the region will require more rational and intensive exploitation of the major river basins (Senegal, Niger, Volta) and Lake Chad. More immediately, there is also great potential in the more extensive use of surface and ground water in water spreading and simple irrigation techniques. Aside from the major irrigation possibilities, there are many fertile areas that flood during the rainy season which could be double-cropped with lower cost and moderate technology.

Decreasing Soil Fertility: Continued cultivation of many areas in the region will depend upon the capacity of farmers to improve soil fertility and to maintain a mineral balance. Years of monocropping and



Control over water supplies is critically needed in the Sahel. Farmers prepare entrenchments to enable limited amounts of

water to reach their area. An intensive exploitation of the major river basins is needed as well as simple irrigation techniques.

soil neglect have combined with natural forces to create a soil exhaustion threat to rural livelihood and food production. Agricultural programs must be devised that can not only increase yields, but also begin the process of rebuilding the organic matter and minerals in the soils.

Increasing Animal and Population Pressures on Good, Arable Land: The most productive land in some higher rainfall areas tends to be fairly densely populated and farmed. The achievement of food production goals in the region will require the opening of new, unpopulated river valleys where various endemic diseases have foreclosed settlement and the exploitation of these resources.

Inadequate Planning and Management of Agricultural Programs: The shortage of trained manpower inhibits many aspects of development; the administrative/management gap affects the agricultural and livestock sectors most. Various methods of assisting governments in training and in building institutions to implement planning are critical.

Ineffective Pricing and Marketing Systems for Food Crops: Contrary to marketing and pricing of export commodities, the systems for food grains have usually not yielded satisfactory returns to producers. The recent Sahel drought has masked a major problem in cereals: the low prices producers get at harvest time, and ensuing fluctuations that frequently force farmers to buy food grains at much higher prices later on. Prices are traditionally low at harvest but producers frequently get prices far below normal market prices because of many distortions and anomalies in the system. There will be only marginal income benefits to participants in increased production programs unless such marketing and pricing problems are solved. Building more secondary roads may be needed to speed grain harvests to markets.

Competing Interests for Livestock Products

Livestock in West Africa has two purposes: growing meat for sale and converting pasture into dairy produce for the herdsman themselves. A successful livestock development strategy must recognize these purposes and successfully bridge competing interests for livestock and animal products. The livestock industry can and should provide subsistence for environmentally damaged areas and also a continuing source of meat for urban areas. This will require livestock and range development for subsistence dairy herding, as well as controlled beef production.

Livestock programs for the Sahel should also recognize that the conversion of arid pastureland into animal resources by pastoralist and nomadic groups has been a highly efficient economic activity. There are vast, remote areas of marginal lands ideally suited to labor-intensive breeding and raising of cattle that provide employment and nutrition for several million persons. There are new elements such as mixed farming of feed lots and improvements in range manage-



Relative to current land production capacities, the Sahel is presently faced with a serious over-population problem.

ment being made in the system, but the basic labor-intensive structure of resource conversion should be left intact.

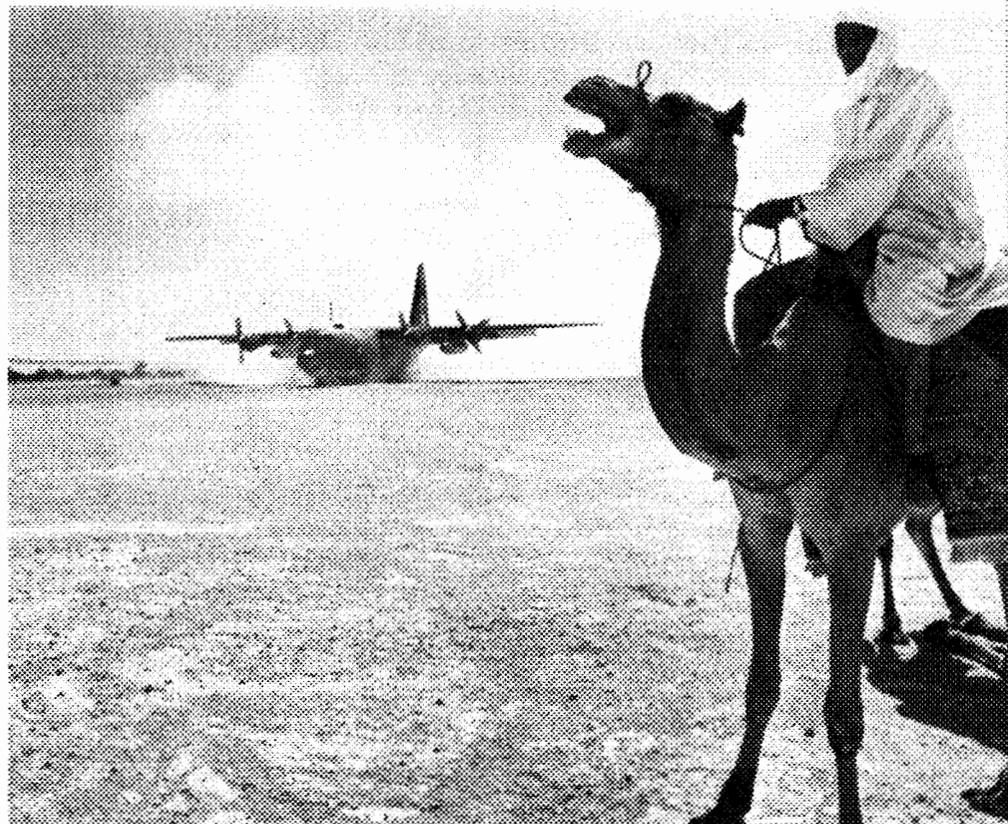
Generally, any sound livestock strategy or even individual project design must consider the interrelationship between the Sahelian, Soudanian, and Guinean Zones, as well as the commercial interdependence between coastal and interior states. The special potentialities and resources of each zone should be maximized in a way that does not degrade the environment. The Sahelian Zone, with its fragile and variable conditions, cannot support pastoral groups and also provide sufficient meat for a rapidly growing urban demand. What is ultimately required is a planned series of balanced and reinforcing investments in all zones, including specific undertakings in coastal states. This "vertical" strategy must be the longer term objective toward which current planning, investments, and trade relationships need to be directed.

Problems in the livestock sector vary from country to country and between zones. Among the key livestock sector problems that must be addressed in any development program:

Deterioration of Range Resources Relative to the Balance of the Eco-System: Solutions to this problem must be consistent with the area's realities. There have been traditional principles and codes to use and conserve pastureland that were followed by pastoralist peoples. These have not assured proper range



Food supplied by AID and other donors has helped avoid mass starvation in the past.



Successful long term planning and a regional development strategy can relieve the Sahel's recent reliance on international relief aid.

management in the recent past for a number of reasons. There are numerous approaches to range conservation and management but the only cost/effective and realistic approach is to restore the environment so that, with some improvements and adaptations, the traditional management system will work again. The methods probably cannot really be defined without a "grass roots" planning effort with the pastoralists themselves.

Rising Urban Demand for Meat: There will undoubtedly be a quantum jump in aggregate demand for meat in coming years. Unless ways are found to expand production and offtake throughout the region, there will be a growing disparity between supply and demand with consequent pressure on prices.

Excessive Reliance in Some Countries on Livestock as a Source of Revenue and Export Earnings: The necessity of relying on this sector for revenue and foreign exchange appears to limit the options of some countries in the way they approach the development of the industry. As new growth sectors are found, it may be important to change pricing and taxation policies to encourage greater production and commercialization. Many of these issues will have to be resolved regionally, hopefully through the regional organizations that have been established to deal with such questions.

Limited Allocation of Country Revenue Resources to Livestock Services: Because the revenue base in most of the countries is limited, and since many gov-

ernmental costs are fixed (e.g. salaries), there is a very limited amount of domestic funds that are allocated for operating or capital budgets in the livestock sector. New means will have to be devised to finance veterinary and extension services.

Inadequate Animal Fertility, Nutrition and Disease Control which Contribute to High Calf Mortality: Longer term qualitative improvements in herds and greater commercialization of the sector are going to require improvement in cow fertility, reduction in calf mortality, and upgrading of animal nutrition. Greater use of animal finishing and fattening in higher rainfall zones will only be possible if calving rates can be increased and disease and mortality in young animals reduced.

Overconcentration of Cattle as a Source of Protein: In response to demand for beef, and programs of assistance for cattle, these animals have increased in large numbers relative to other forms of livestock. One theory holds that large numbers of livestock could be held on available land, if there were greater diversity in herd composition. Different animals make different consumptive demands upon the environment and when their relative numbers are in balance it should be less degrading on the environment. Also some smaller animals (poultry, pigs) may be much more efficient in converting underutilized resources into protein.

Underutilization of Rangelands in Higher Rainfall Zones Due to the Presence of Tse-Tse Fly and On-

chocerciasis (River Blindness): Large areas of potentially productive land are little used because of these health hazards. Since the technology of control of the insect vectors of the two diseases is well understood, land use planning, followed by eradication programs could greatly increase livestock and crop production in the Southern Sahelian states and in northern portions of coastal states. In addition, the introduction of Trypano-tolerant breeds (Taurin or Zebu) could be considered where vector control is technically infeasible or too expensive.

Inadequate Use of Animal Traction in Mixed Farming Enterprises: There are probably numerous areas, particularly in the Soudan, where greater use of animal traction could expand farm productivity, contribute to improved soil fertility through more intensive use of manure, and increase farmer income through the finishing and selling of the oxen. Following the establishment of work animals and an increase in farm area, a larger number of livestock could be grown and finished on the farm using wild grasses and agricultural residues. Forage production is also possible where it does not compete with scarce labor or land being used for food crop production.

As in many other areas of the world, health and population questions are inextricably linked to the issues of food production, the quality of rural life, and environmental reclamation. If the limited productivity of labor is a key factor in restricting farm output, so then poor health and nutrition standards are root causes of inefficient labor productivity. Therefore, crop production programs also should address the need for rural health services and improved nutrition.

Health Care for Rural Areas

Most of the debilitating diseases in the area are preventable, but health programs have been largely curative rather than preventative. To penetrate rural areas, preventative programs must be designed that can provide services through trained but inexpensive para-medical personnel. This is the most important part of the process of directing health care to rural areas.

Relative to current land production capacities, the Central and West Africa region has a serious overpopulation problem. Since most of the governments have not been anxious to actively engage in control programs, expanding the productivity of labor may



In many areas, greater use of animal traction could expand farm productivity, contribute to improved soil fertility through more

intensive use of manure, and increase farmer income through the finishing and selling of oxen. More work animals could be bred.



The long term prospects for these children will depend largely upon the practical relevance of the education they receive.

be the best approach to the problem until more direct approaches are acceptable. Relieving the need for additional family units of labor (children) to produce a relatively small incremental unit of food could start the process of personal preference for smaller families.

The legacy of colonial education in Central/West African states has left the countries poorly equipped to approach key problems in education and human development. For the most part, their formal education systems are elitist and develop only a thin veneer of skills for the modern sector of the economy. They ignore the needs of the rural masses. For those fortunate few who get formal education, "upward mobility" is by no means assured because the modern sectors of most countries have an annual increment of no higher than 1-2 percent in new job opportunities. Still, the absence of opportunities in rural areas and the enormous differential between urban and rural salaries, continues to attract people to the cities who, with minimum functional literacy, are willing to take the risks. As a result, cities continue to grow at a rate approximately three times greater than that of the population as a whole.

Changing Popular Perceptions

To make education more "relevant" will require changes in popular perceptions regarding the rewards of education. A shift is required away from expectations of employment and upward job mobility to expanding the ability of people to make meaningful decisions about their lives; to expand their options and to supplement their abilities in multiple resource exploitation.

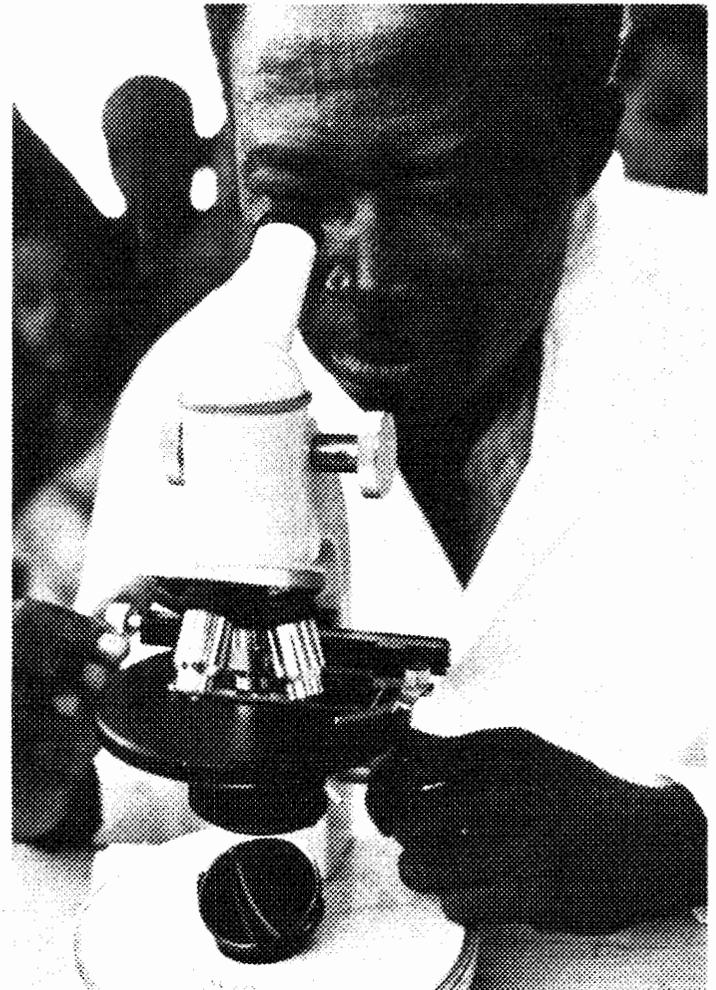
Programs that are developed in the planning effort must seek to really explore alternative means of extensively upgrading the skills, productivity, adaptability, and resourcefulness of the masses who do not receive any formal education. The people themselves should be both the ends and the means of this process. For example, it is the traditional structures, such as the

village or the family, that may be the only effective mobilizers of these new skills.

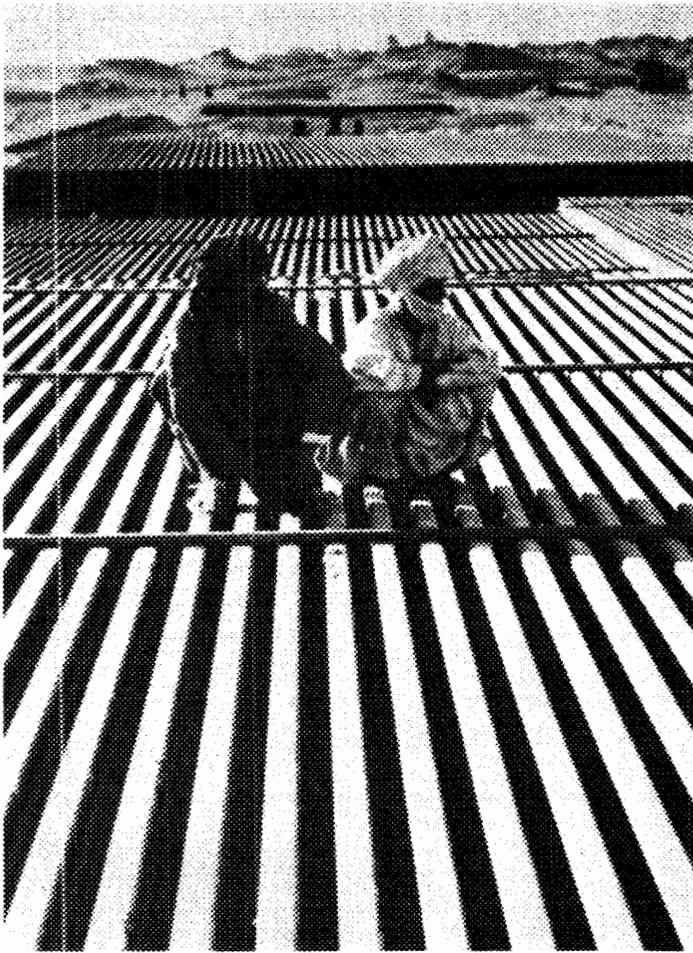
If as an overall goal qualitative improvements in rural life are sought, then a part of that process is a narrowing of the perceptions of different attractiveness between urban and farm settings. This involves on one hand creating new opportunities for food production and better health services, and on the other, providing the appropriate education and training skills necessary to realize real returns in food and income from these opportunities.

The Regional Approach

Development programs for the Sahel should be designed with a regional strategy in mind. The key problems of the area are common to all of the countries in the region and there is a need for regional solutions to many of these problems. While for the foreseeable future much of the planning and articulation of programs is going to be more national in nature, development of the Sahel must take place over the entire area if it is not to continue as a recipient of international relief and if it is to move from being a food deficit region to one which is substantially self-sufficient in food production and is eco-



Preventive medical programs staffed by trained paramedical personnel are needed to improve health services in the Sahel.



Too few job opportunities in agriculture and the lure of higher salaries are factors swelling city populations in the Sahel.

nomically viable. And not only will donor investment be needed over a wide geographical area but it will also be needed for a period of time long enough to bring about an actual transformation of the Sahel.

Useful experience in donor coordination has already been gained during the massive relief effort to avert widespread famine and disease, and during the recovery period immediately following the drought when many short-term projects were undertaken on a coordinated basis. Medium-term programs, undertaken by AID on a bilateral basis and designed to meet the Sahelian countries' priority objectives of good crop and livestock production, are being implemented in close coordination with other donors and their development assistance activities. Although assistance to the Sahelian region has been provided without the benefit of a formally established institutional mechanism for assuring donor coordination of efforts, a number of specific instances can be cited. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has sponsored multi-donor meetings to address regional transportation problems and is taking the lead in establishing a multi-donor administrative mechanism for the special problem of onchocerciasis control and development in the Volta River Basin. The European Development Fund (FED)

has sponsored several multi-donor meetings to address (joint analysis) and to develop a common strategy for planning the livestock sector in the Sahel and contingent areas. The UN/FAO played a vital role in coordinating the international provision of emergency food aid during the drought and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is sponsoring the Global Atmospheric Research Atlantic Tropical Experiment (GATE) which will assess weather patterns and atmospheric conditions in the Sahel-Sundano Zone.

The Sahelian countries themselves have formed associations to deal with common problems. To deal specifically with problems directly caused by the drought and related ecological problems, the six Sahelian countries have created CILSS (le Comité Permanent Interétats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel). The Sahelian countries also are members of associations formed to deal with the exploitation of shared resources: for example, the Senegal River Basin Organization (OMVS); the Niger River Commission; and the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC). Common sectoral problems and policies also have been focal points around which cooperative associations have been built notably, health problems (OCEAC); livestock (the Entente Livestock community); birds and insect pests (OCLALAV); or water resources (CIEH). All of the Sahelian states are members of the African Development Bank which is actively providing assistance packages for each of the affected countries.

Because of the interest in and experience gained by donors in working together on emergency, short, and medium term responses to problems in the Sahelian regions, there is a real opportunity to coalesce worldwide concern for the area into an approach that will ensure sufficient investment to bring about longer-term development over a broader geographic area and for the long term.

Toward Self-Sustaining Development

The prospects for the Sahel, therefore, while difficult in the extreme, are by no means impossible. The fact that the Sahelian states themselves appear ready to make the difficult decisions necessary to mobilize domestic resources for development problems; the organized fashion of assistance from the industrialized world; and the natural resiliency of the peoples indigenous to the area, all combine to create a circumstance in which longer term development can take place. Perhaps the most important factor, aside from the need of some reasonable balance of annual rainfalls, will be the determination of the countries giving assistance to provide funds over a sufficiently long enough period of self-sustaining development. The technologies, the resources, and the will to solve the problem exist. Whether all of these elements will come together to bring progress and real hope rather than dust and desperation to the 30 million inhabitants of the Sahel still remains to be seen.



New Documentary Film

'SURVIVAL IN THE SAHEL'

The Agency for International Development has produced a new color 16 mm film—"Survival in the Sahel." The 15 minute film graphically depicts the conditions created by extended drought in the African Sahel (Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Upper Volta) and Ethiopia. The relief and rehabilitation efforts which have been undertaken by the governments of the affected countries with U.S. assistance and that of other international donors also are described.

The film may be borrowed without charge from a distribution center of Association-Sterling Films. The centers and the states they serve are shown at right:

CALIFORNIA (north of San Luis Obispo) HAWAII	NEVADA UTAH	6644 Sierra Lane DUBLIN, CALIFORNIA 94566 Robert Imlach, Manager (415) 829-2300
ARIZONA CALIFORNIA (San Luis Obispo and south)		7838 San Fernando Road SUN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 91352 Dan Sathern, Manager Los Angeles residents: 875-3242 All others phone: (213) 767-7400
KENTUCKY NEW YORK (Buffalo & west) OHIO PENNSYLVANIA (Harrisburg & west) VIRGINIA WEST VIRGINIA		324 Delaware Avenue OAKMONT, PENNSYLVANIA 15139 Loretta Wagasky, Manager Pittsburgh residents: (412) 362-5011 All others phone: (412) 828-5900
ARKANSAS COLORADO KANSAS LOUISIANA	MISSOURI NEW MEXICO OKLAHOMA TEXAS	8615 Directors Row DALLAS, TEXAS 75237 Kenneth A. Ring, Manager (214) 638-6791
ALABAMA FLORIDA GEORGIA MISSISSIPPI	NORTH CAROLINA SOUTH CAROLINA TENNESSEE	5797 New Peachtree Road ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30340 William O. Fly, Manager (404) 458-6251
ILLINOIS INDIANA IOWA MICHIGAN *	NEBRASKA WISCONSIN (lower half)	512 Burlington Avenue LA GRANGE, ILLINOIS 60525 Bruce F. Farnsworth, Manager Chicagoans: Bishop 2-1898 All others phone: (312) 332-3377
CONNECTICUT MAINE MASSACHUSETTS NEW HAMPSHIRE RHODE ISLAND VERMONT		410 Great Road LITTLETON, MASSACHUSETTS 01460 William Shumway, Manager (617) 486-3518
DELAWARE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MARYLAND NEW JERSEY NEW YORK (east of Buffalo) PENNSYLVANIA (east of Harrisburg)		600 Grand Avenue RIDGEFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07657 Frank Wolf, Manager New York City residents: PE 6-9693 All others phone: (201) 943-8200
ALASKA IDAHO MONTANA	OREGON WASHINGTON WYOMING	915 N.W. 19th Avenue PORTLAND, OREGON 97209 Mrs. Frances F. Hansen, Manager (503) 226-7695
MICHIGAN * (Upper Peninsula) MINNESOTA NORTH DAKOTA	SOUTH DAKOTA WISCONSIN (Upper half)	6420 West Lake Street MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55426 Mrs. Dorothy Saeugling, Manager (612) 920-2095



A Question of Attitude

By Helen Nash

There is a saying among the rural people of Latin America that each child is born with a loaf of bread in his arms. That is not the same as being born with a silver spoon in one's mouth.

"But the bread is just as symbolic as the silver spoon," explained Annie Laurie, an AID officer who recently returned from a tour of duty with UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization) in Latin America. "The silver spoon

Ms. Nash is on the staff of AID's Office of Public Affairs.



In Latin America, each child is said to be born with a loaf of bread in his arms. The bread represents self-sufficiency.

means the child is born to a well-to-do family and that he is economically secure for life. The loaf of bread signifies that he will be able to fend for himself—that he won't have to depend on his parents for food, which is synonymous with survival among the rural poor.

"It was that concept which was the main focus of my work with UNESCO," Ms. Laurie recounted. She was assigned from AID's Office of Population to serve with UNESCO's Regional Office of Education for Latin America and the Caribbean with the primary assignment of conducting national seminars for educational policy-makers on the subjects of "education, population, ecology, and the family."

During her two-year tour Ms. Laurie wrote a comprehensive teacher's guide on population and conducted seminars in six countries. Five seminars were held at the requests of the governments of Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Peru, and Trinidad and Tobago. A sixth seminar in Argentina was held at the request of the University of Cordoba and the Ministry of Education. Each national seminar was attended by policymakers from the ministry of education of that country.

"The purpose of the seminars," said Ms. Laurie, "was to help educators prepare curricula designed to inform people about the causes and consequences of rapid population growth. One of the causes is that people like large families. It's a basic cultural attitude."

Need for Security

Ms. Laurie pointed out the underlying psychology for the desire to have large families. "It probably originated with the need for security," she said. "Parents want children to take care of them in their old age. They also want more farm hands. And, of course, with the high—but now, declining—rate of infant and child mortality in developing countries, the more children you have, the better the chance that more will survive and reach adulthood.

"It may have been partly this need that gave rise to *machismo*, which is a concept—strong in the Latin culture—in which men put great importance on demonstrating their virility. And then, of course, glory is reflected on the women who bear many children

—especially sons. Most women realize that bearing too many children too close together is injurious to a woman's health but often cultural pressures keep them from making their feelings known."

In addition to population dynamics, the seminars were concerned with cultural attitudes towards the size of families. Ms. Laurie stressed the fact that the course was not concerned with dissemination of contraceptive information, sex education, or family planning. "People have to *want* to limit the number of children if population growth rates are to decline," she pointed out. "Once people desire fewer children they will obtain contraceptive information."

In the "Teacher's Guide" which she wrote, Ms. Laurie describes the objectives of a population education in the curriculum: "to develop a base of knowledge, and understanding of population dynamics which will enable each individual to make free and responsible decisions about his behavior as this affects himself, his family, community, and society as a whole."

Lectures by Specialists

Understanding population dynamics was the thrust of each seminar. The structure of the seminars was designed in UNESCO's Population Unit by Ms. Laurie and her co-worker, Albert Sireau—a Belgian sociologist and demographer. Lectures—given by specialists in each field—included ecology, family life, demography, and population education. These lecturers were internationally recruited. In addition to international specialists, panels of local experts addressed the group in each country. These panels included officers of the national planning boards, members of the Pan American Federation of Faculties of Schools of Medicine plus other pertinent experts in each country.

"The goal of population education," said Ms. Laurie, "is to help people understand the way in which each person affects the environments—such as physical, social, economic—and the environments affect each person. We suggest that educators treat population on an interdisciplinary basis rather than in a special course—and the earlier in the educational process this starts, the more effective it will be."

Ms. Laurie believes—and the great majority of the educators who attended the courses in the various countries, agreed—that kindergarten classes are where classroom population education should begin.

In the last week of each course participants were asked to draft model curricula for each level from kindergarten on through the school system. The curriculum was to include relevant subject matter within the course already taught. Participants also drafted plans for preparation of key personnel to carry out the project. This included subject matter, techniques, and emphasized the use of pertinent audio-visual material.



AID population officer Annie Laurie was assigned to the U.N. Educational, Social and Cultural Organization to conduct seminars in Latin America for educational policymakers. The seminars were designed to help educators prepare curricula on the causes and consequences of rapid population growth.

"The concept of a small family can be taught to small children even before they learn to read," Ms. Laurie pointed out. "Story book illustrations could depict a two-child family instead of a larger family. Games and songs could refer to Mama, Papa, Anita, and Maria. Designing a family with two children of the same sex is also a good idea. One of the reasons many couples want several children is that the first two are the same sex—they keep trying for the opposite sex, usually male."

For primary and secondary levels, course participants drafted curricula which included population in reading, history, geography, nutrition, the natural sciences, home economics, and, of course, all levels of mathematics. An inductive approach is used in most of the lessons. Students are given the facts and invited to draw their own conclusions.

Stimulating Class Discussion

One lesson suggested by the "Teacher's Guide" is to have upper level students examine the statistics and demographic situations in their own countries. Ms. Laurie described how this method works in a typical class session. "The teacher starts by asking if the class thinks the country is overpopulated. The typical response will be, 'the cities are crowded but there is plenty of unused land!' That gets the class into a discussion. What kind of land is available? How should people be resettled? Which people should be resettled? What kind of services will have to be offered in the newly opened areas?"

"In this discussion," she continued, "the usual needs are brought out—roads, water, sources of income, housing, education, and medical attention. Then the costs are considered. Where will the money come from?"

"This often leads to a discussion of land tenure and land reform. Then there is the inevitable conclusion that there should be a more equitable distribution of goods and services. This kind of discussion may go on and on.

"Then someone will remark that resettlement may not be practical, but—and you can count on this argument—'We have industries. Why can't the people stay



The high rate of infant and child mortality in Latin America and a combination of cultural attitudes are among reasons that may

have prompted this family to have nine children. Education, starting at an early age, can help change attitudes.

in the cities and work in industry?' The vicious circle soon becomes apparent. Here's where the teacher can point out that there is no single answer.

"If the class can grasp the idea that there are some answers, that it's a vast puzzle and some of the pieces have already been put together, hopefully the students will recognize that their generation must generally find the rest of the pieces and put them in place.

"The lesson is successful when the students conclude that something must be done—not only by the government or some other group, but also by each student."

Out of such self-awareness will be developed programs of education for economic and social development suited to the needs of each country and the quality of life desired by its citizens.

IN PRINT

Toward Better Child Care

A Review by Dr. Jack P. Keeve

Paediatrics Priorities in the Developing World by David Morley, M. D. Butterworth and Co., Ltd., London, 1973. 470 pp., \$2.95.

This is a long overdue and very useful book which should receive wide circulation. The author waived his royalties from the first edition in order to keep the purchasing cost low. In addition, the size and paperback format of this edition should make it readily available and within the means of students and libraries in developing countries. Although African experience and examples are the mainstay of the presentation, the problems and suggested solutions are almost universally applicable.

Order of Priorities

The contents are arranged to introduce the reader first to the general problems of less developed countries and the socio-economic determinants which play a major role in health and disease causality. Morley goes on to briefly discuss intercultural patterns and problems of child-rearing and attitudes towards disease in various countries. He also attempts to set up some kind of rational order of priorities for pediatric care, starting with chronologic age and working through diseases according to prevalence and severity.

The book is especially notable in two respects.

First, Morley promotes the use of a special kind of health record which would be useful to illiterate mothers. It provides not only a record of the infant's medical history but also has great potential for teaching mothers to improve their

childcare practices. Second, the author introduces family planning as an integral function of good child health medical service, rather than as an isolated and separate function of a special clinic.

While this is a book which should certainly be on the shelf of every medical, nursing, and health care teaching institution, as well as in the hands of those in government or voluntary agencies responsible for the administration of child care facilities, it is bound, as any book is, to be left behind by events and newer ideas. Health care thinking today, for example, has moved away from assuming that medical care per-se will solve the health problems of poor people. The direct relationship between money spent on medical services and the incidence of many diseases may no longer exist or apply. The book also views the rural-urban dichotomy as though it were relatively uncomplicated, implying that the rural poor might be simply classified as those people with low incomes living in isolated locations away from population centers.

Question of Audience

There is also some need to clarify the intended audiences for this very worthwhile book. The discussion on corruption, for example, serves no useful purpose for some groups while the emphasis on anthropology in the selection on practices and beliefs perhaps limits its usefulness because of its specialization.

Major diseases are given full treatment in separate chapters and a special section is devoted to nursing, early childhood feeding, and nutrition. The bibliography is especially noteworthy with 328 list-

ings, many of them primary references.

In summary, this book offers almost a short course in pediatrics, with special emphasis on the problems of the developing world. Medical students, nurses, social workers, and child-care workers of all categories would profit from owning and reading it.

Action by AID

It should be pointed out in conclusion that AID has taken action on a number of the issues raised by this book. AID has printed and distributed a durable, multicolored growth chart, based on Dr. Morley's design, which folds into a water resistant plastic envelope that is kept by the family of pre-school children. Over two million of these in English, French, and Spanish versions have already been distributed within 40 countries.

Another project that is presently in process deals with the alarming decrease in breast-feeding and what trade-offs might have to be made to reverse this trend. A study of the child care needs of working mothers, a research proposal to examine the impact of water supplies on infantile diarrhea, and several studies of nutrition education are further examples of how AID's Office of Nutrition is involved in dealing with the problems of pediatric age groups among the poor in developing nations. Evaluation of child feeding programs and the interrelationships between nutrition, health, and family planning also are integral parts of AID's strategy to direct its efforts principally toward pre-school age children and pregnant or working mothers in rural areas and in the rapidly growing sections of cities in the less developed countries.

Dr. Keeve is on the staff of AID's Office of Nutrition.

IN BRIEF

Health Programs Aided

An AID loan will help finance Colombia's four year health program aimed at expanding health services in rural and urban areas of the country. The \$17.3 million loan will be used to provide health care and nutrition programs, massive vaccination campaigns, rural sewer and potable water projects, training of medical and para-medical personnel, construction of health posts, and development of a regionalized integrated system of health care throughout the country.

Malaria Control in Indonesia

Indonesia is mounting a program to control and reduce malaria with AID assistance. Malaria is a major health problem, posing a threat to over 90 percent of the country's 126 million people and affecting farm production. AID is providing a loan of \$24.7 million for a five year joint project with the Indonesian Government: to reduce the transmission of malaria by household spraying of DDT on the Central Islands of Java, Bali, and Madura and in priority areas of the Outer Islands.

The project also will provide malaria treatment to people living in the Central Islands and suppressive drugs in the Outer Islands.

Bleak Report on 1974

Although widespread starvation in the world was averted in 1974, the number of severely malnourished people increased over the estimated 460 million affected in 1970, according to the Council of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization. A major concern of the 42-nation Council, which met in Rome in March, was the fact that per capita food production in the developing countries was lower in 1974 than in 1970. It also reported that the inability of many developing countries to import sufficient fertilizers was particularly serious and that while crop prospects for 1975 seemed

favorable, world cereal production had fallen in 1974 for the second time in three years, leaving stocks seriously low.

The Council noted, however, that food aid commitments have already reached 8.8 millions tons of cereals, approaching the minimum target of 10 million tons set by the World Food Conference in November 1974.

Fertilizer Plant for Bangladesh

AID is providing a \$30 million loan toward the construction of a urea fertilizer plant in Bangladesh which is expected to have a major impact on the agricultural sector. The new plant will more than double the country's urea production capacity.

The total cost of the fertilizer project is estimated at \$249.4 million, including \$142.3 million in foreign exchange costs. In addition to the AID loan, the balance of the foreign exchange is being provided by the International Development Associa-

tion (\$33.4 million), the Asian Development Bank (\$30 million), the United Kingdom (\$18 million), Iran (\$12.4 million), the Federal Republic of Germany (\$12 million), and Switzerland (\$6.5 million).

India Drought Relief

The Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere, Inc. (CARE) is distributing 50,000 metric tons of AID-donated food grain through a Food for Work program in drought areas of India.

CARE is focusing the Food for Work program — which includes projects in watershed development, pasture improvement, forestation, and soil conservation—in districts with the largest number of small marginal farmers and landless laborers. Participants in the program will be paid for their labor in food and the projects are expected to help create new employment opportunities as well as increase agricultural production.

The grain, provided under the U.S. Food for Peace program, consists of 25,000 tons of soy-fortified bulgar and 25,000 tons of soy-fortified sorghum grits.

QUOTES

“. . . in our interdependent age, the content of peace is much broader. The rights of others impinge directly on our own rights. The rights of any nation or individual must be compatible with the rights of all nations and all people. Peace, in our time, is no longer simply a negative act—refraining from aggression—but a positive one—the pursuit of economic well being and social justice for all men.”

Richard Schroeder

Panorama

September-October 1974

“Recent studies have shown . . . that the best way to cut birthrates is to ease the effects of malnutrition and poverty, which often make desperate people regard children as an asset in the struggle to survive.

For birth control to work in the poorest nations, demographers say, adequate food, education, and jobs must be provided, too.”

U.S. News & World Report

March 24, 1975

“The need today is not to substitute the aid of other industrialized and rich countries for American aid. It is to boost the absolute totals of aid everywhere. If the current trend of a widening gap between the rich and poor nations of the world is not arrested, the cost in political, economic, and even military consequences could be far greater. Humanitarianism not only has a moral imperative; it is a matter of world stability.”

The Christian Science Monitor

March 25, 1975

The Latin American Connection

In a wide-ranging speech on Latin American and U.S. relations to 1,200 representatives of local service clubs in Houston, Texas, on March 1, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger dealt with key political and economic concerns in the hemisphere. The following excerpt from his speech focuses on U.S. proposals for joint efforts with Latin American countries to improve food production.

Latin America matches the United States as a potential food surplus region. Yet over the past 15 years, Latin American agricultural production has barely kept pace with population. In an area rich in productive land, malnutrition is rife. Most Latin American countries are net food importers. We believe that with a concerted new effort, agricultural production can exceed population growth; adequate nutrition for all can be achieved in this century; and Latin America can become a major food exporter.

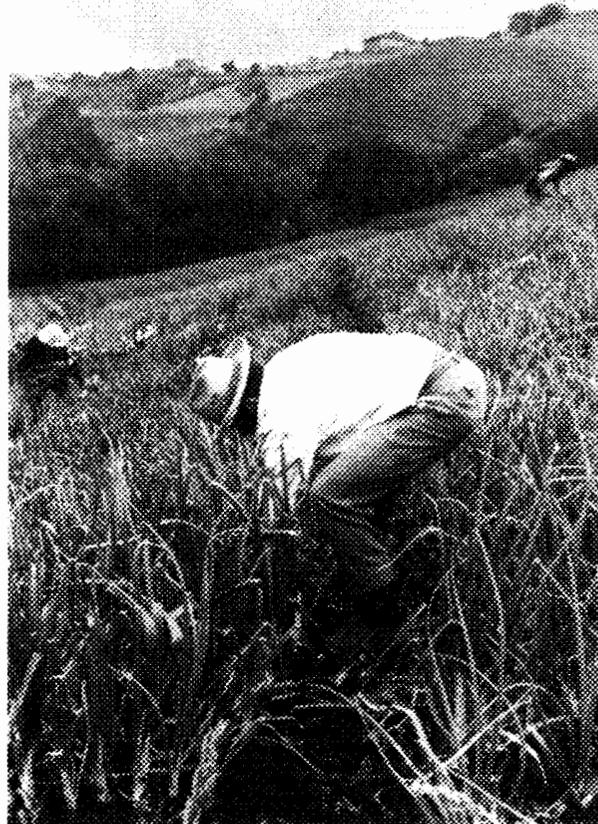
The immediate need is to improve food production. The U.S. proposes the establishment of a Hemisphere Agricultural Consultative Group under the Inter-American Development Bank. Its goal should be to generate annual production increases in the range of 3-1/2 to 4 percent, to be achieved through:

- new investment in regional and national agricultural programs;
- integration of agricultural research efforts throughout the hemisphere;
- adoption of improved national food and nutrition programs.

The consultative group should also recommend urgent steps to reduce the waste and spoilage now consuming between 20 and 40 percent of total Latin American food output.

Agricultural research is a central element in attaining adequate nutrition for all. But too often research is unrelated to local needs and efforts elsewhere.

To make research more adequately serve local needs, we will assist the international research centers in Mexico, Colombia, and Peru to extend their projects and programs to other countries in the hemisphere through closer collaboration with national research institutions.



An annual increase in agricultural production of as much as 4 percent may be possible in Latin America.

To foster better exchange of agricultural research information, we propose that a new center be established for Latin America, under the auspices of the Hemisphere Consultative Group, and linked to the Agricultural Information Exchange Center of the Smithsonian Institute in the United States.

The United States is prepared to join with other countries and institutions to finance the local extension efforts of the international research centers and the information exchange center.

Finally, we propose that the United States and Latin America jointly establish and finance research centers in nutrition and food technology; that a new generation of Latin America agriculturalists be trained through internships and research in these centers as well as in government and private laboratories and institutions in both continents.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Agency for International Development
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D. C. 20523

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Restoring the ecological balance in the Sahel is one of the priority objectives of long term development proposals which are being studied by AID and other international donors. (See page 7)