

developed countries must resist pressures to ignore the poorest parts of the world. The basic challenge is the same: to convert the fleeting solidarity achieved in fighting this African famine into action to prevent the next one.



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There are some encouraging signs that the governments of Africa are learning the lessons of the famine. The July 1985 annual meeting of the Organization of African Unity in Addis Ababa saw heads of state acknowledge the excessive, and at times suffocating, role of government and the neglect of critical economic sectors such as agriculture, manpower and industry. A new theme of partnership between government and the people is beginning to emerge.

In early 1985, Zimbabwe was still listed as one of the 20 drought-stricken African countries in desperate need of food aid. By the end of the year, the farmers of Zimbabwe produced enough maize to return the country to food self-sufficiency. In the Wollo region of Ethiopia, the peasants have been mobilized in a huge terracing program to build retaining walls along the slopes. As these examples illustrate, it is the people and particularly the farmers of Africa who are on the front lines in the war against famine. Whether the battle is won or lost will depend, in part, on the support of people around the world. In 1984-85 the world said, "We can make a difference". And we did. Now a more difficult commitment is required: that of an on-going partnership with the people of Africa.