

POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES

With RICHARD HUTCHINS

Last night while watching the "National" news a story came across describing the latest events in the Scenario of Poland's Solidarity movement. It promoted me to consider the possibility of its ultimate success. Unfortunately, this idealistic consideration does not hold weight with Poland's overlords in Moscow.

Poland's geopolitical location is imperative to Soviet military interests and any ideological movement that poses a threat to the communist government in Warsaw will not be tolerated by Moscow's totalitarian, closed communist government. This new development also reminds us of the staunchly nationalistic people of Poland. With the support of the powerful Roman Catholic Church the Poles have again shown their solidarity and contempt for martial law and continued outlawing of their independent Union.

I am fearful of the blood shed and chain reaction this civil dissent could cause. The western world has shown its support for the civil liberties and moral changes solidarity has proposed but it is also reminiscent similar hopes and dreams in the communist controlled countries of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and East Germany. In all three countries the Soviet military crushed dissent with the most powerful tool of diplomacy they know - military invasion. In each case concessions were not considered possible under communism doctrine.

The pope has planned to visit Poland to pronounce his support for the now outlawed Solidarity Union. Radicals are calling for the release of Lech Walesa and other leaders jailed since the implementation of martial law. All of this renewed furor spells imminent confrontation and possibly international involvement.

Many of us in Canada find it difficult to comprehend the governments in Eastern Europe and their unwillingness to accept change and public opinion. This attitude is inherent in all communist societies. Communism world wide has used government control and military power as a means to maintain the communist doctrine and stifle opposition.

I believe no changes will come in Poland without civil war and loss of life. The Poles now on strike in Gdansk and other Baltic ports are cut off from the world by a communications blackout imposed yesterday and must be prepared to face the worst if they continue their illegal strike.

These events in Poland could trigger new problems in detente since president Reagan has already warned the Soviets he will not condone any use of Soviet military in the Polish crisis. Brezhnev has also warned he will not allow any communist regime to fall to the whims of social change and the Soviets will support the government of Poland at all cost.

Where does all this insanity leave the Polish people? Historically in the past 150 years Poland has been the puppet land of Imperial ambitions and 6 subsequent invasions and sub divisions. The Poles are used to war and I feel their unity under the Pope and solidarity will force another confrontation. Although this one could be a bloody struggle it is one based on nationalism the cornerstone for many revolutions.

Press release

Mary Strickland has withdrawn from the race for Vice-president of the Graduating Class Executive. Hope Nagle has been acclaimed as Vice President following the already acclaimed Secretary/Treasurer Susan Crockett. Mary Strickland could not be reached for immediate comment.

Yesterday Darrell Stephenson was acclaimed for the half term Law seat. The following other people have been acclaimed and will be seated on council.

Education (1 full term) Randy E. Brodeur

Engineering (1 half term) Donald Coombs
(2 full terms) Laughlin Murray, Steven Richard
Forestry (1 full term) Mike McCormick

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To feed is duty

By KATHY O'BRIEN
Brunswickan Staff

The elimination of world hunger is the most important duty of the world community.

World Food Day was established last year by the 147 members of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, and is to be held annually October 16th. The purpose of this special day is to encourage people to think about world hunger, and to demonstrate their desire and commitment to ending it.

Governments in all parts of the world have set up events for World Food Day with the hope that people can be alerted to the problems of the world food situation. Action, at the community level is important also. At UNB, on Oct. 15, the Lady Dunn/Tibbits cafeteria will host a Third World Country meal consisting of fish, rice, potato and water. It is sponsored in conjunction with Agriculture Canada, CUSO and Beaver Foods Ltd. For each student that participates Beaver Foods Ltd. will donate \$1.00 to a Third World Food Organization. This would be a good way for students to participate on World Food Day, in a small way. It certainly is a worthy cause.

If you do not believe that world hunger is an extremely serious problem consider these facts:

- In 1978, 12 million children under the age of five died of starvation;
- 420 million people suffer from chronic undernourishment;
- hundreds of millions of people, raised as farmers, are landless;
- millions of acres of fertile land are lost to agriculture through soil erosion, spreading deserts, and urban sprawls.

The facts go on and on. It is easy to ignore world hunger in North America, where the living is relatively good and among other resources we hold more than 40% of world grain reserves. Perhaps the world food situation should be looked at more closely.

Throughout the centuries most people believed that the elimination of starvation was impossible, that the population

would increase more quickly than food production, in 1982 many people are still of that opinion. This is not true anymore, though. During the last 20 years, world food supplies have grown at a greater rate than population. In fact, according to the FAO, the world produces about 10% more food than is necessary to feed total population. The problem is that this food is not shared equally.

The ability to increase food production will continue to grow. In the 1970's, developing countries increased their food production by an average annual rate of 3%, and in the 1980's it will be feasible to increase the production by about 4% per year. By the end of the century, it has been estimated that there will be a doubling of food production in the developing countries, while the population is forecast to rise by 60%.

To achieve the highest rates of growth, more land must be brought under cultivation. The use of fertilizers, pesticides, mechanical power, and improved seeds will have to be increased. Massive new investments, changes in governmental policies, and international assistance throughout the developing world are required.

If these conditions are met, it is possible that by 1990, the developing countries, as a whole, can produce 7% more food supplies than needed.

If food production rates increase dramatically, all will not be well, unless the food is distributed equitably. The maldistribution between and among countries is appalling. In 1977, the developed nations had food supplies that were 33% higher than their population's needs, while the worst off countries only produced 92% of the food they required. And during the last decade, food supplies increased more quickly than population, yet undernourishment rose also. It

is a very real possibility that as more food is produced, maldistribution, especially within developing countries, will increasingly replace food shortages as the root cause of hunger.

Another problem is that steps taken by developing countries to increase their economic capacity rarely benefit the most disadvantaged people. For example, improved marketing systems can lead to higher productivity, but they also may decrease locally available food surpluses, or raise food prices in rural areas.

Likewise, shifts to cash-crop cultivation may raise incomes and exports, but reduce local food supplies. In the future it will become all the more important for individual countries and international organizations to develop programs that really do aid the poorest of the lot.

All in all, elimination of world hunger will be a difficult and complicated process. Not only is increased food production needed in the poor countries, but food has to be made accessible to everyone.

The industrialized nations of the world should aid these countries in the opinion of the FAO but not by giving them hand outs such as food supplies, but by promoting self-reliance. New and better solutions to eliminating starvation must be found.

It is hoped that World Food Day observances will not only show humanitarian concern, but people will consider what new steps can be taken. Canadians can examine world food issues, promote informed public debate, and above all, support the people and organizations that are trying to alleviate undernourishment.

If you would like further information regarding World Food Day, contact:

World Food Day Secretariat
Sir John Carling Building
Ottawa

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