

the United States in 1955 there were 2.80 acres of arable land per person (population 164 million); in the world as a whole there were 1.25 acres per person, with considerably less in the populous countries of Asia. This allowed surplus food production in the United States, where indeed over-eating became a problem, but in the rest of the world great areas have been at or near starvation.

By the year 2000 the population of the U.S. will approach 400 millions and the arable land, including anticipated reclaimed lands, will be 1.16 acres per person; in the world as a whole, however, there will be less than half an acre of tillable land per person.

“AN EMPTY BELLY . . .”

It is obvious that this presages catastrophe for our type of civilization, unless food and fiber production can advance at a greatly accelerated rate. The political-economic impact of this struggle for the bare necessities of life has been gaining increasing momentum over the past half-century, and the international unrest and tensions of the present are a reflection of the strain between availability and need for food. The tension will inexorably increase, for when men approach hunger they have nothing to lose, and gain can be the only reward of survival. A Russian proverb says, “An empty belly knows no law.”

M. C. Chagla, Indian Ambassador to the U. S., stated:

“I want you Americans in your land of plenty to imagine what it means for tens of millions of children to be born who will suffer from malnutrition, who will have no homes to live in, who will have no employment when they grow up, if they grow up, and who will spend their entire lives as disgruntled, envious and embittered human beings—a ready prey to any idea, no matter how monstrous, which might promise them surcease from their squalor and escape from misery, a hope for better prospects and a life more tolerable to live.”

WHERE COMMUNISM GERMINATES

Mr. Chagla has described the fertile ground in which the seeds of communism and anarchy can germinate and flourish and has remarked the basic cause of political unrest among the seething masses of southern Asia. Similar conditions are developing rapidly all over the world, and touching our own continent in Central and South America today.

Even in America our population is increasing at a rate calculated to remove our politically embarrassing food surpluses in but a relatively few years. To feed this population in the United States we shall require by the year 2000 an additional 400 million acres of arable land, assuming we can maintain our present yields and productive efficiency. As we do not have