

Federation of Rural Peoples Organisations

(86/19, Janpath, N. Delhi-1)

Prof. N.G. R A N G A

President:

Bharathi Kuteer, Vijayawada-10

NIDUBROLU (A. P.)

9-8-75

Dear Sir,

I am sending herewith for your consideration and sympathetic co-operative action, the appeal for the establishment, under the auspices of the United Nations, F. A. O., W. H. O. etc. of a World Food Insurance Fund and Commission for its administration. Dr. Adekke Boerma, Director-General of World Food Agriculture Organisation expressed his fears on 25-6-1975 in Rome at the Ministers' Meeting of the World Food Council formed by the Rome Conference on World Food held in November 1974 that the hopes entertained by U. S. Secretary of State Mr. Henry Kissinger and endorsed by Dr. Kurt Waldheim Secretary-General of U. N. O. to banish hunger in ten years are "unlikely to be successful". Why? Because the fate of 500 million under-nourished people depends both on the "political will of the governments of the 30% of global population of prosperous Countries where most of food is produced, as Mr. Bradford Morse, U. N. Under Secretary-General has warned the Food Council's ministers in June 1975 but also on the frequent unforeseeable visitations of natural calamities, causing disastrous disarray of food production. Even the 3.6% annual increase of food production, planned for by

the Rome Conference for the next decade is subject to vicissitudes of seasons, which affect developing countries so much more severely whatwith their built-in resistance to governmental efforts to check population growths. Therefore we take this liberty to stress the urgency for concerting measures such as the formation of World Food Insurance Fund and the requisite Commission to administer it and backed by complementary National Funds in each country.

I may assure you that the signatories are specially interested in increase of food production, control of population growth, elimination of under-nourishment and hunger of the 500 million under-fed peoples as well as the protection and prosperity of the self-employed peasants and other producers of food.

I request you to endorse this appeal and otherwise promote the suggested approach, as an indispensable adjunct to other schemes which are already being considered by the World Food Council.

Yours very sincerely,

N. G. RANGA.

World Food Insurance :
APPEAL TO U.N.O. & F.A.O.
WORLD FOOD INSURANCE FUND
AND COMMISSION :
BY INDIAN PUBLIC WORKERS
AND LEADERS OF PEASANTS.

We are glad to express our appreciation and agreement, with the Call sent out in 1974 to Governments and Peoples for Action by the Population Crisis Committee, incorporated at Washington D. C. signed by distinguished Citizens from over 100 Countries. We are happy that the Secretary General of UNITED NATIONS Mr. Kurt Waldheim has endorsed that Call and World Food Conference was held in Rome in November 1964.

We particularly note the following historic truths mentioned in it :

- i) "The absolute number of desperately poor are far greater than ever before in history" and
- ii) "growing populations, denied sufficient food needed for survival, resist all efforts to secure a peaceful world."

iii) "a bad monsoon in Asia or a drought in North America" and we can add cyclones, typhoons, droughts, floods, forest fires, visitations of wide-spread locusts or other pests, epidemics affecting human beings, cattle etc. "could mean severe malnutrition for hundreds of millions and death for many millions".

iv) Such calamitous failures of food supplies - Food being recognised by the Call also as being "an essential condition of life to all people- "have created and will create serious social unrest in many parts of the world and particularly severe in countries where hunger and diseases that thrive on under-nurished bodies are prevalent."

Millions of people come to be famished, unemployed and lose all their capital and credit whenever such calamities overtake them. To relieve their distress and to rehabilitate them is often beyond the capacity of many nations in the third world.

"The need to seek solutions is pressing" to repeat, "the Crisis" warning. A "comprehensive world Food Plan" must include plan for insuring food production and producers of food from the vicissitudes of nature, such as drought, floods.

To protect land, lakes and forests, standing crops and cattle and to save peasants from Malaria, tse tse fevers and black water fever, cholera is as

important as to produce more per acre and per peasant. To save peasantry, agriculture and their equipment from consequences of such natural calamities is even more prudent and important.

It is impossible for the Governments and Parliaments of such nations to exhort their people to repose faith in World Peace, and World order based on social justice and peaceful settlement of international conflicts, when they find that while they are not at all protected from any of the natural calamities, all possible social securities against unemployment, ill-health, and crop and cattle insurances etc. are available for so long in all Western and other prosperous countries.

Contributory Crop and Cattle Insurance Schemes on a National scale are possible, only so long as there are nationally and internationally financed schemes for insuring the people from wide-spread national disasters caused by floods, droughts, cyclones, epidemics and pests, that is, vicissitudes of seasons and other natural elements. So far there are no such national-level insurance schemes against their evil results. Most of the Nations in Asia, Africa and Latin America are perilously within the grip of such oft-recurring crises and they are never secure from the fangs of famine and pestilence. Only on the basis of such constructive and protective efforts, can any nation establish Crop, Cattle and other insurances and ensure better production and distribution. Until and unless the agricultural masses are suitably protected from the ravages of these

natural calamities, there cannot be effective, stable, secure and growing production of food and other agricultural produce to ensure adequate supplies of nourishment to growing populations.

Therefore one of the most important and basic things to do by world community is to take suitable steps on a world-scale to ensure the protection of masses from such calamities and to rehabilitate the affected victims and to reconstruct from time to time the damaged sectors of agricultural economy. So the World Community that is, the United Nations and its associate organisations, such as the F.A.O., W.H.O., ought to undertake the development of a World Food Insurance Commission, to operate as the Apex authority backed by nationally based Food Insurance Commissions (F.I.C.) The national F.I.Cs should be provided with adequate annual funds from the respective national budgets. The World Commission has to be provided with annual grants from all the countries, more especially from the prosperous and non-impooverished countries whose per capita income as well as per decade growth of production and wealth are above a particular level of socio-economic development and prosperity. The Funds of both the national and world commissions are to be permanently funded, so that schemes of protection, rehabilitation and development, ranging over five to ten years can be undertaken by the National Commissions and strengthened with suitable grants by the World Commission.

The severity of these national disasters can be minimised, though gradually, by undertaking simultaneously and often over decades, many constructive and developmental schemes. For instance afforestation and tree-planting and tree-protection schemes can arrest expansion or growth of deserts, minimise loss of soil by erosion. The severity of droughts can be mitigated by the construction, deepening, de-silting, repairing of major and minor irrigation works, exploitation of under-ground water-resources, through tube-wells, rigs, wind-mills, utilization of water power through many small-scale hydel schemes, and the conversion of desert, drought-oriented areas for agricultural uses through shower-spray watering, sub-soil anti-evaporation measures and also by desalinisation of sea-water, or brackish water. Most of the lands which are liable to frequent submersion resulting in water-logging can be salvaged, as in Holland. Break - waters can be controlled, sea, erosion checked. Such wasting diseases as hook-worm, black-water-fever, epidemics such as Cholera and the international menace of locusts have to be battled with and seasonal crop-pests and cattle-epidemics have to be scientifically fought. By all such long-term protection and developmental measures, undertaken in a planned manner on national and international scale, the frequency and intensity of these natural calamities can be minimised. By such and similar protective and developmental steps "disastrous breakdowns in World Food Supply can be avoided" or minimised. It is a task which "global partnership and demands of social

justice make imperative" to quote from the Call from Washington.

But such protective activities demand enormous funds, which are beyond the capacity, even over five or ten years of most of the nations in the Third World. These developmental works have to be protective and rehabilitative. They can and ought to be undertaken by the International Community, in the name of humanity as a whole. Their costs would be decreasing in terms of human efforts, apart from their monetary equivalents, from decade to decade in proportion to the effectiveness of the protective and developmental activities of the proposed World Food Insurance Commission backed by the National Commissions. Indeed so many of the present-day activities of the World Food and Agriculture Organisation, W. H. O. and similar World Welfare Institutions are making their own contributions. The proposed World Food Insurance Commission is expected to coordinate, broaden and intensify their activities and develop this protective armour against natural vicissitudes and calamities.

To provide interim relief, from damages caused to property, crops, cattle, houses and to save agriculturists them and their cattle from starvation, cold or summer heat is the first charge on such a Commission. To help the hundreds of thousands of them to rebuild their houses and cattle-sheds and provide themselves with milch cattle and ploughing bullocks or tractors etc. and to obtain employment on their re-structured farms and houses

and enable them to obtain working capital etc. is the second rehabilitation charge. These essential aids alone are not enough to salvage the afflicted masses, since they are chronically under-fed, under-employed and on the verge of social submersion or traditional depression. If such masses who are vulnerable to such hitherto unrelieved and uncontrolled natural vicissitudes are to be truly salvaged as good enough producers, then the proposed Commissions have to undertake long - term programmes of fighting such vicissitudes, by anticipating their blows and weakening or minimising their evil impacts and slowly gaining calculable control over their capacity to damage humanity as in the past.

To this end, we suggest that initially a World Fund of 5 billion dollars should be created plus annual contributions to be made by every nation, in accordance with its capacity. We welcome U. S. President Mr. Ford's offer of an annual fund of a billion dollars from U. S. announced at the latest meeting of the 24 Nation Organisation (Paris in May 1975) for economic co-operation and development. The Soviet and Chinese groups of nations should certainly be able to offer at least as much more.

The details as to how the national and international funds are to be collected pooled and utilised can be worked out by the concerned Commissions, on the advice of F. A. O. and U. N. O.

It is heartening to hear (May 1975) from U. S. Secretary of State Dr. Kissinger say, even after recent

developments in S. E. Asia, that U. S. continues to recognise that "the global problems in food are a Central moral and political challenge. A world order in which tens of millions starve and millions more are under-nourished will never be accepted as just".

We appeal to the United Nations to agree to shoulder this humane responsibility of insuring the World's Food Production and its Producers from natural calamities.

Sponsoring Organisations :-

**Federation of Rural Peoples Organisations
of India (Regd.)**

& Farmers Federation of India (Regd)

Editors of "Rural India"

The signatories:

- 1) N. G. Ranga, Founder President, Federation of Rural Peoples, 86/19 Janpath, New Delhi. All India Peasants Congress. Foreign Affairs Association of India (1947-1971) Foundation Member of the Executive of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (I.F.A.P.)

Author of "Towards World Peace" Colonia and Coloured Peoples Freedom Front [Credol of World peasantry.

Pleaded with President Truman, in a special interview in 1949 for the extension of Point Four Aid to Asian and African Peoples.

Delegate to the F. A. O. Session in Copenhagen I. L. (). Session San Francisco Toured in African and European Countries and participated in the "Symposium" organised by UNESCO during Gandhi Centenary Celebrations.

Indian Delegate to Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences at Ottawa 1952, Delhi 1958, Wellington 1965 and Inter-Parliamentary Union Conferences in Copenhagen 1964 and New Delhi 1969.

- 2) P. Rajagopala Naidu, Member, Legislative Council, President, Andhra Peasants Congress, Author, Vice-President, Rural Peoples Federation. (R.P.)

- 3) N. V. Naidu, Ex - M. L. A., (1955-62) Member, Executive, I. F. A. P. 1948-50. Secretary, Federation of Rural Peoples, New Delhi, Freedom Fighter, (F. F.) Toured in U. S. A., Europe and Asia
- 4) Jatendra Mohan, General Secretary, Foreign Affairs Association of India 86/19 Janpath, New Delhi. Editor "Foreign Affairs".
- 5) G. N. Rao, M. B. A. (U. S. A.) Editor, VAHINI Secretary, Andhra Rural Peoples Federation, Vijayawada.
- 6) P. Thimma Reddy, (F. F.) Ex-Minister, Food and Agriculture Andhra State Government (1957-70). Vice-President, Farmers Federation of India.
- 7) N K. Ganapaiah, Tea Planter, Secretary, Farmers Federation of India, Bangalore, Karnataka.
- 8) H. S. Dwivedi, Advocate, (F. F.) Editor "Rural India" Bombay, Secretary, Rural Peoples Federation
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- 10) Y. Venkatrao, B. A. B. L., Member, Legislative Assembly, Governing Body, Agriculture University, Hyderabad.
- 11) Mathura Prasad Mishra, President, State Land Mortgage Bank, Patna, Bihar, Freedom Fighter.

- 12) P. Kotaiah, M.L.C., Secretary, Weavers Congress, Federation of Rural Peoples, New Delhi, Member, University Senate.
- 13) V. L. Sundera Rao, Freedom Fighter, Secretary, All India F. F. Committee, Karol Bagh, New Delhi. Secretary, Rural People's Federation.
- 14) N. Rajagopala Rao, Advocate, Secretary, Flood & Drainage Protection Committee, Bapatla.
- 15) K. R. Koshti, B. Sc., (London), Weavers Congress Poona.
- 16) P. Koteswara Rao, M.A., B.L., Advocate, Joint Editor, Vahini, Bapatla. Vice-President, Andhra Federation of Rural Peoples.
- 17) G. R. Nayakulu, B.A.B.L., Advocate, Chairman, Flood Protection Committee, Bapatla. F. F.
- 18) R. Swaminathan, M.P., (F.F.) New Delhi. Delegate, Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.
- 19) Dr. D. L. Narayana, Professor of Economics, S. V. University, Tirupati. On the panels of F. A. O.
- 20) K. Butchaiah, Ex-M.L.A., Cotton Growers Association, Hyderguda, Hyderabad.
- 21) K. Rosaiah, B.A., M.L.C., Secretary, Rice Millers Association, Ex-Senator, Andhra University.
- 22) B. V. Sivaiah, B.Sc., Ex-M.L.A., Chairman, Tobacco Development Council, Ex-Senator, Andhra University.

- 23) N.C. Zamindar, M.A., Joint Editor, "Rural India",
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- 24) Sadanand Paonikar, Advocate, Nagpur.
- 25) H.R. Sayoji Rao, B.E. (London) Retired Chief
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- 26) V.D. Nimye, B.A.B.Sc., Nagpur, Rural Peoples,
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- 28) Girish Nandan Sinha, Advocate. (B. R. P.) Patna.
- 29) N. Sreerama Murti, Editor, Zamin Ryot, Nellore.
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- 31) P. Sivaramakrishna, M, Com., Secretary, Milk
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- 32) Samalbhai Patel, Ex-M.L.A., Sarpanch, Khedut
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- 33) Chotabhai Patel, Ex-M L.A., Khedut Sangh, Ellis
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- 34) Biswas Roy Ex-Minister, Author, Jeypore, Orissa.
- 35) Sheelabhadra Yajee, Ex-M.P., President, All India
Freedom Fighters Association, Sahajananda.
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- 36) S. S. Mariswamy, M.P., Freedom Fighter, Madras
- 37) Polakala Narasimha Reddy, M P. Chittoor.
- 38) Doctor H. V. Hande, M. L.A, Madras.

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- 42) C. Amaraiah, Lecturer, P. B. N. College, Nidubrolu.
- 43) M. Ch. Nagaiah, Ex-M.L.A., R. P. Guntur.
- 44) T. Srirama Murthy, A.P. Cotton Growers Association, Paruchur.
- 45) A. Iswara Reddi. Ex-M.L.A., M.A., University Syndicate, Tirupati.
- 46) K. Venkaiah, Associate Member, Adimajati Sevak Sangh, Tribal Peoples, New Delhi.
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- 48) L. V. B. Chowdari, M. A , (Oxon) Barrister, Pedasanagallu (A. P.) Member, Andhra Academy Andhra Livestock Committee.
- 49) Pandit G. V. Subbaiah, Author, F. F. Devinagar, Bellary, Karnataka
- 50) Mrs V. Basant Singh, Patiala, Punjab.
- 51) Gummadi Sessaiah, M. B., B. S. Retd. Medical Officer, Guntur.

- 52) S. Y. Krishna Swamy, M.A., Former Food Secretary Govt. of India, Organiser, Campaign for Freedom From Hunger Conference held in Washington under F. A. O. auspices.
- 53) Deorao Patil, M. P., President, All India Cotton Growers Association, South Avenue, New Delhi 1.
- 54) Dr. M. N. Chopra, General Secretary, All India Freedom Fighters Association, New Delhi.
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