

and social conditions as a whole. Consequently, it is assistance to developing countries as a whole which should be increased and extended in all its aspects . . .

Illiteracy: Grim Companion To World Hunger Problem. — *Freedom from Hunger, Rome, November-December 1967.*

Illiteracy was directly related to lagging agricultural production in an address to the International Congress of Farm Writers held at EXPO 67 in Montreal.

"Over this next critical quarter century," said FFHC Co-ordinator Charles Weitz, "we will be called upon to cope not only with more hungry people but with more untutored ones as well. We underestimate the inherent menace of such a situation at our own peril. I for one can imagine no more dangerous combination than hunger wedded to ignorance.

"Can peace prevail in a world where hundreds of millions, or billions, a majority of the world's inhabitants, suffer both a hungry belly and an impoverished and bitter mind? Can civilization itself long survive such a test?"

Mr. Weitz said United Nations experts estimate that there are 200 million more illiterates in the world today than there were five years ago. The percentage of children attending school in an "alarming number" of African, Asian and Latin American countries was slowly but ominously falling.

The situation was not to be wondered at, Mr. Weitz said. In the developing nations, between 75 and 80 percent of all heads of household are farmers, so when agriculture in these countries failed or was depressed, there tended to be failures in other areas. It took money to build schools, to hire and train teachers, to provide schoolchildren with textbooks. The failure of a maize crop in the Andes, an outbreak of rinderpest in southeast Asia, or a drought in central Africa meant not only less food and less money but also fewer new schools and sometimes the abandonment of existing ones.

"Let us make no mistake about it," Mr. Weitz told the gathering of journalists, "the world is engaged in a war, a war against hunger and human misery. Every man, woman and child alive today, and for at least another generation to come, is involved in this war—willing or not and ready or not."

In the face of the crisis, two things had to be done immediately:

- World agricultural production had to be greatly expanded.
- Population had to be stabilized at some reasonable level before it crushed all man's progress to date.