THE PROBLEM.

THIS 'Daily World' poster is part of a 'Study and Action Pack for World Development,' containing colour posters, wall-charts, flyers, a special magazine on the 'New Economic Order' and a 40-page newspaper called 'Yes But What Can I Do?' (See box at top right.)

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10,000 DIE IN FAMINE

At least 10,000 people are believed to have died yesterday in the famine which has gripped 60 nations of the world. "It is the worst disaster since yesterday," said a UN spokesman last night.

According to the latest reports from the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome, a total of 460 million people are now 'actually starving'. Speaking in Geneva yesterday, former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt told a UNICEF meeting that "a third of all mankind is now ill with chronic hunger."

'This need never have happened'—U.N. spokesman

However many thousands died in yesterday's famine, one fact emerged clearly last night. It need never have happened. Experts meeting at the World Food Conference in Rome agreed that there is no physical shortage of food in the world at the moment.

As one observer at the Rome meeting put it: "This is a crisis of price and distribution. There is grain available for export in the US and Canada and several other rich nations, but the poorest countries cannot afford to buy the grain at commercial prices."

At a UN meeting in Cocoyoc, Mexico, participants were also blaming "a traditional market which makes resources available to those who can buy them rather than to those who need them".

"There need be no shortage," said the final communique, "it requires only a small release from the surplus of the rich to meet the entire Asian short-fall."

FAO Director General Ardeke Boerma said yesterday in Rome, "The market, playing freely, will always feed the rich. You cannot expect trade to arrive at a fair distribution of goods in the world. Trade is to make money."

It was not only at the superpower level that the wealthy appeared to be taking precedence over the needy. In the Sahel, where drought and famine have claimed an estimated 100,000 lives in 12 months, thousands of acres of the most fertile land, owned by foreign agribusiness companies, are being used to grow cash-crops for export, while people are dying of weakness and famine often only fields away.

The World Bank said last night that production of food for local consumption in one of the worst hit areas, Mali, had declined from 60,000 tons to 15,000 tons while exports of protein-rich crops like peanuts have increased rapidly.

In Cooch Bihar, India, neighbouring states were buying the 'surplus' grain from famine areas.

"It's grain goes to those who can afford it" reported Michael Hornsby in today's *Times of London*.

Commenting on the crisis, the British organisation War on Want said in London: "This is a crisis of demand. People are facing starvation because they are unable to produce their own food or too poor to buy food that is already available."

Observers were quick to point out last night that Europe is now importing over one third of Africa's protein-rich peanut crop and the United States has imported 700,000 tonnes of fishmeal from Peru and Chile — almost exclusively for animal feed.

Professor George Borgstrom, speaking in Oslo, told a meeting last night that "the rich world now imports more protein from the poor world than it exports to it. No doubt everyone realises how preposterous that is."

FOOD AID DOWN

As world prices for rice and wheat have tripled and quadrupled in the face of heavy buying, pushing up supplies beyond the reach of many poor countries, so world food aid has been tumbling down.

An American assessment paper released today showed that food aid shipments from the United States were down from 18 million tons in 1964-5 to 7 million tons in 1973. "The volume of food aid," says the paper, "has dramatically diminished at the particular time when it is most needed."

The face that says it all . . . a Bangladesh refugee farm-worker carrying his dying wife in a last search for help. She died of cholera a few hours after this photograph was taken. *Picture by Mark Edwards.*

Environment gets a Strong warning

NUCLEAR power stations, increasing consumption of oil and coal, the use of the seas as the world's dustbins, disappearing forests, and the pumping of 1,000 new man-made chemicals into the environment each year, are creating serious risks to the health and well-being of the planet and all its people.

That was the warning delivered to the world yesterday in the annual 'State of the Environment' message by UN Environmental Programme Director, Maurice Strong.

Speaking at the UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, Strong told delegates from 85 nations, "We are in danger of allowing short-term economic considerations to over-ride the larger and longer-term interests of the entire human community."

On nuclear power — an issue which impales most international civil servants firmly on the fence, Strong came down on the side of caution. "Governments should impose a slow-down on nuclear power stations until more research has been carried out," he said.

Suggesting that solar energy should attract more of the world's attention, Strong produced the statistic that "all the electric power needed for the United States could be met by a single 'sun-power' plant, occupying a space less than 10 per cent of Arizona."

It was left to an environmental 'layman', Kenyan gynaecologist Ephraim Eraj, to put the obvious question at a press luncheon in Nairobi's Civic Centre yesterday. "Why is it," he asked an official of the Environment Programme, "that clean plentiful safe solar power is not being developed, whereas dirty dangerous expensive nuclear power is? Could it be because solar energy has no military potential?"

On conventional fossil fuels, UNEP reports that increased burning of coal and oil has almost doubled the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere in the last fifteen years.

Strong clearly now believes that there may be a real risk to the world's climate balance. "Some meteorologists," he said, "believe that recent droughts in Africa and India can be linked with the poor harvest in the Soviet Union and China as symptoms of a major world-wide climatic change."

At ground level also, environmental changes are affecting the world food situation. UNEP estimates that man has already ruined 10 per cent of the world's arable land. Soil erosion and the destruction of forests "have literally paved the way for the advance of deserts" and according to yesterday's 'State of the Environment' message "more productive soil is being lost each year than is being placed under cultivation."

The Group of 77 developing countries, meeting in Dakar, linked the pollution and resource depletion crisis to the world economic situation. "Low commodity prices," they argued, "have stimulated excessive consumption and waste of scarce resources in affluent countries."

UNEP also had successes to report. A 16-nation 'Action Plan' signed in Barcelona could save the Mediterranean from "dying of pollution". At the moment, untreated effluent from 150 cities with a total population of 100 million is daily pouring into the "world's most threatened sea."

Third World unemployed nears 30%

Unemployment in the Southern Hemisphere is flickering between 25 and 30 per cent and an estimated 200 million people in Africa, Asia and Latin America are out of work.

The International Labour Organisation said in Geneva last night that "the world is faced with the urgent problem of creating employment for millions in all parts of the world ... the plains of Southern Asia, the Savannah of West Africa, the textile plants of Nigeria, the highway and construction sites of Egypt, Malaysia and Colombia, the docks of Kingston and Djakarta."

"A large fraction of the labour force," said an ILO spokesman, "now lack a source of income both reliable and adequate for the basic needs of themselves and their dependants."

According to one source, the increase in the labour force amounts to 50,000 people a day in South Asia alone.

The ILO announcement quoted one unemployed worker in South Asia as saying, "Tell the world that the unemployed are in real want. I have nothing to eat, no house, and no clothes."

Our economic correspondent writes: Unemployment figures are notoriously misleading when applied to countries where seasonal unemployment is the norm for millions of people in the rural areas. But as employment expert Professor Hans Singer said last night, "The figure of 25 per cent to 30 per cent could be arrived at from available data combined with reasonable pessimism."

Potentially the most explosive factor in the unemployment crisis is that the jobless are increasingly young, educated and gathered together in cities.

Swiss economist Paul Bairoch said this week that "unemployment in the 15-24 age group is running at twice the national average in most developing nations."

To make matters worse, an estimated 75,000 people are leaving the rural areas of the poor world every day in a massive 'drift to the towns', where the population is now growing twice as fast as the population in general and where basic social services are lagging far behind.

Environmentalist Barbara Ward pointed out: "If these settlements lack food, shelter and all sense of rooted social identity, and if they are in close proximity to other communities in which the full range of affluence is on display, a decline in public order is inevitable."

In Calcutta, former police-Chief P. K. Sen commented: "The younger generation today is discontented and restless. Calcutta's conditions have given rise to a generation of cynical youth — ready to resort to desperate methods to fulfil their desire for a better life."

THAT MONDAY MORNING FEELING

Dr Fritz Schumacher, economic adviser to the trouble torn UK Coal Board, told an audience in London last night that for the rich minority in this world, "the present crisis is not 'part of a cycle', nor a 'shake-out', nor a correction' or anything of the sort . . . it is the end of an era.

"We have been attending a party," said Dr Schumacher, "where we have been entertained by two great illusionists. The first was the illusion of an inexhaustible supply of cheap fuel and raw materials from the poor world. The second was the illusion of an almost equally inexhaustible supply of workers willing to do boring, repetitive and soul-destroying jobs for very modest rewards.

"Now," said Dr Schumacher, "both these great illusionists have left. And the party is over.

Dr Schumacher linked the action of the oil-producing nations with the recent coal-miners strike.

"Externally the producers of oil and phosphates have realised their essentiality and thereby their power. Internally, the same thing has happened — groups of people who hitherto have counted for little have also discovered their essentiality and their power. The miners are a case in point."

Quoting from his recent visit to San Francisco, Dr Schumacher reminded his audience of the garbage-collectors' strike, which won a pay rise to $17,000 a year. "This was not taken very kindly by the university of lecturers of California who average $16,000 a year," said Dr Schumacher, "but the garbage collectors were unmoved and publicly invited the lecturers to join them. None came."

342,500 due today in 'Baby-Boom'

IN THE 24 hours up to midnight last night 342,460 babies were born in what was believed to be the world's biggest ever 'birthday'. Today's total is expected to be even higher.

Seventy per cent of the new arrivals were admitted into the Southern Hemisphere.

A spokesman for a family planning organisation in South Asia said last night in Madras, "There is no way that these people can be fed, clothed, housed educated or employed. If catastrophe is to be averted, the rich world must back a crash family planning programme to reach every town and village in the poor world."

But the UN Fund for Population Activities and the International Planned Parenthood Federation were quick to dismiss family planning as a cure-all for the population crisis.

A spokesman for the UNFPA said in New York yesterday that "family planning in isolation is not the answer." From IPPF Headquarters in London came the announcement that while family planning advice should be made available to all, "population growth is not the primary cause of poverty, disease and illiteracy."

Today's figures left no one in any doubt that a crisis is looming. The world's population will double by the end of the century and the men and women who will create that increase are already born. It was the action needed to tackle it that was being hotly contested last night as a final tally of births for the day came in.

At the World Population Conference in Bucharest, it was pointed out frequently today that in the low-income world, children are often an economic necessity. At little extra cost to the very poor, said one speaker, children provide security in illness and old age and help in the fields and in the homes.

The man at the centre of the debate, India's newly-appointed Minister of Health and Family Planning, Dr Karan Singh, told an audience in New Delhi last night that "development is the best contraceptive. Unless you can have a marked improvement in the living standards of the people," he said, "family planning is simply not going to work."

NEW RISKS AT WORK

An estimated 300 people were killed and 160,000 injured in accidents at work yesterday according to the International Labour Organisation.

Commenting on the figures an ILO spokesman said in Geneva yesterday that the facts revealed no reduction in the frequency of seriousness of accidents at work. "New risks are now being added to old, known hazards," he warned. "There are, for instance, the harmful effects of many chemicals in widespread use in industry and agriculture, such as fertilisers and pesticides, the effects of automation and mechanisation, including increasingly serious neurotic troubles, and the grave complexity of the problems faced by managerial and technical staff causing exhaustion and breakdowns."

UN calls for new economic order

THE governments of 138 nations meeting at the Special Session of the UN General Assembly in New York have called for a 'New International Economic Order' to steer the world away from the present storm of crises.

The 'Declaration on the Establishment of a New Economic Order', a 2,000-word document, went through the General Assembly 'on consensus' late last night. Although the industrialised nations filed 230 pages of 'reservations' on the document, many developing nations feel that a major breakthrough has been achieved. "The world will never be the same again," said a tired but exultant delegate from Sierra Leone last night.

The developing countries, increasingly united in the 'Group of 77' have argued throughout the three weeks of this session, that the present world economic order was created by and for the rich nations during the colonial era and is still working to enrich the already rich at the expense of the already poor.

This 'old economic order', say the 'Group of 77', is precipitating world crises, such as food and population, by failing to meet the basic needs of two thirds of the world's people.

Among their proposals are: higher prices for the developing world's exports; more producer associations like OPEC; better access to the markets of the rich nations for the manufactured goods of the developing world; more aid on better terms; international controls on the multinational corporations, a re-think on the developing world's $100 billion debts; freer access to twentieth-century technology; a reform of the international monetary system, the relocation of certain industries in the developing countries; an end to the waste of the world's resources by the rich nations; more regional cooperation between the nations of Africa, Asia and Latin America, and emergency measures to help the countries most seriously affected by the present round of crises.

MORE OPECs

Chief among the reasons cited this week for the failure of the present world economic order was the steadily worsening terms of trade for the developing nations.

Three-quarters of the developing world's exports are raw materials — for which the price has been steadily falling in relation to the rising price of the manufactured goods which make up three-quarters of the rich world's exports. The New Economic Order calls for an index to link the price of raw materials and manufactured goods and stop the two worlds from drifting economically further apart.

It also calls on the developing countries to form new producers' associations in an attempt to repeat the success of OPEC and unilaterally force up the value of the developing world's raw materials.

Algerian President Boumedienne, who personally leveled the move to convene the Special Session, laid it on the line for the developed nations. Before he said last night, "The raw material-producing countries insist on being masters in their own homes."

Wealth gap is peace threat

—Club of Rome

GRIM warnings of the possibility of nuclear violence were being independently voiced yesterday by authorities not noted for scare-mongering.

In Switzerland, an international conference of nuclear specialists called for "immediate attention to the problem of diversion of nuclear material by terrorists, organised criminals and other non-government groups."

At the same time, the American army commander in Europe, General Davidson, was emphasising the difficulty of "guarding tactical nuclear weapons against guerilla attacks."

In New York, philosopher and social scientist Robert Heilbroner said last night: "Years of redistributions may be the only way in which the poor nations can hope to remedy their condition."

In Denmark, Professor Adlercreutz warned of the danger of "a world where a combination of growing inequalities and ever cheaper atomic bombs might lead to an all-in disaster."

While some experts were urging the rich governments to "put the lid on the gun" by building elaborate protective screens and huddling their nuclear power stations closer together, others were trying to take the lead out from under' by urging all governments to take action on the underlying causes of international violence.

'Only One Earth' authors Barbara Ward and René Dubos commented: "If developing peoples were as ignorant as Pharaoh's slaves of the forces at work, then they might toil on without protest. But modern TV has put an end to that kind of ignorance. Can we hope that the protest of the dispossessed will not erupt into local conflict and widening unrest?"

The Club of Rome agreed with this viewpoint and argued that "unless this lesson is learned in time, eventual nuclear blackmail and terror will paralyse further orderly development . . . ten or twelve years from now it will probably be too late, and then even a Bismarck or Kissinger, constantly crisis-crossing the globe on peace missions, could not prevent the world from falling into the abyss of a nuclear holocaust."

LATE NEWS

$685m spent on arms in last 24 hours

The world's bill for yesterday's military spending is now expected to top $685 million.

As reports of the huge total for the day came into the newsroom last night, mingled with crisis stories from many nations, "Daily World" staff-person Elaine Paul was doing an interesting sum on the back of an envelope.

- **10,000 more people reported dying today in the 60-nation famine (see report, page 1).**
- **More than 342,500 babies expected to be born in 24 hours to midnight tonight. Total slightly above yesterday's — see report page 1**
- **75,000 people reported leaving world's rural areas this morning for mass march on cities (see this page).**
- **Another 50,000 people started looking for work in South East Asia today (report page 1).**

Annual cost for ending world illiteracy in five-year programme. *(Estimate by UNICEF).* **$1.6 billion**

Annual cost for making 'real impact' on the development crisis. *(Estimate by World Bank Chief Robert McNamara)* **$15 billion**

Annual cost for investment in land and water needed for poor nations to meet food production targets. *(Estimate by UN Food and Agriculture Organisation)* **$4.5 billion**

Money needed now by poor countries to maintain essential imports. *(Estimate by World Bank, Washington)* **$5.5 billion**

Cost for solving the crises of cities and human settlements. *(Estimate by environment expert Barbara Ward)* **$25 billion**

Annual cost for supplying everyone in the poor world with basic maternal health and family planning services. *(Estimate by food and population expert Lester Brown).* **$2 billion**

TOTAL FOR ABOVE SERVICES TO THE WORLD THIS YEAR $33.8 billion

ANNUAL WORLD EXPENDITURE ON ARMAMENTS (ESTIMATE BY UNITED NATIONS) $200 billion

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THE PROBLEM.

YES BUT WHAT CAN I DO?

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WHAT CAN I DO?