

Beating Hunger Is Major Goal Of New States

Rehovot, Israel — (Science Service)—The conquest of hunger by birth control is the only ultimate solution to the problem of adequately feeding the increasing population of underdeveloped countries, M. Wilcox Perrin, chairman of the Wellcome Foundation in London, told the first International Conference on Science in the Advancement of New States meeting at the Weizmann Institute of Science here.

The British authority advocated world-wide birth control as necessary if world population increases continue at the present rate. But until this solution has world-wide acceptance, he advised new methods and resources for increasing food supplies to keep up with present growth rates to be exploited.

Changing dietary habits to provide a better balance between protein and carbohydrates would be one aid, Perrin said that greater utilization of the oceans as a food source also would vastly increase food supplies. Proper application of veterinary science would increase meat sources by increasing productivity of the animal population.

Stop-Gap Measures
These are stop-gap measures and no substitute for a universally accepted plan for birth control, Perrin declared.

"Birth regulation" rather than "birth control" is the answer to the population problem, according to Dr. M. C. Shelesnyak of the Weizmann Institute who said the population problem "is not limited to the population of man." It includes, he suggested, all animal life, "even microorganisms useful to man as well as to pathogens."

Birth regulation "allows for the concept of increasing where desired, as in the case of livestock (food source); decreasing, as in the case of pest animals; or maintaining a specific level," the Israeli scientist said.

Effective regulation requires more understanding of the basic physiology of reproduction than is presently available. "Unfortunately, we are still lacking much of the basic information concerning physiological mechanism of conception," Dr. Shelesnyak said. "But since we know the areas requiring research, efforts in that direction, particularly from young scientists in the young states, should yield the necessary knowledge."

Opposed to birth control or "regulation" as the answer to the struggle against hunger, Dr. Josue de Castro of the University of Brazil said the applied knowledge of science and technology can eliminate the need for such control.

"We should not be frightened by the fact that each day in the world there appear 80,000 new mouths to feed, provided that they are matched by 80,000 brains to think and create and 80,000 pairs of hands to work and produce."

Dr. de Castro said science soon may make possible the use of sub-polar and even polar regions as well as the desert area. Food production could be multiplied 500 times by fertilizing and utilizing these large areas of land.

Questions from the newly created Asia-African nations to the lecturers made it clear that for them the conquest of hunger is an immediate and pressing problem; and they want an answer that can be productive now.

Bostonian in Dilemma; Loses Pounds, Lonely

Boston — A woman who moved to Boston from a small town in Maine joined a club for stout persons not because she was overweight, but because she was lonely and wanted to make friends.

"I had the feeling," she explained, "that fat people are jolly people and would make good new friends. But the funny part of the story is that I've lost 11 pounds; I don't want to lose any more, and I don't want to quit the club, either."

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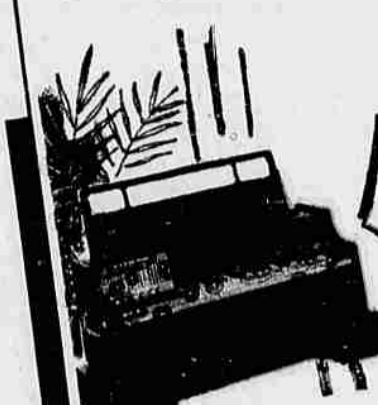
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