A FEW NOTES ON OUR FOOD PROBLEM

BY JAMES BLUE

NARRATION AND TITLE SCRIPT

VISUALS:	NARRATION:
HARVEST WITH DUCKS.	This film is about a problem which may threaten our lives within the next 20 years. Statistics say that the world is losing the ability to feed its growing populations. If nothing is done by the Year 1980... .. .the nations of Asia. Africa, and Latin America may see the beginnings of widespread Famine.
TITLE: 1980/FAMINE (DOLLY)	For the next 40 minutes we are going to move our camera about the earth to show you images which illustrate the problem. You will see scenes from three continents: the details, the faces will differ but each is a part of the same story happening everywhere. It has taken from the dawn of time until today for the earth to produce a total of three billion people. From now until the end of this century, that total will double. ***
SUNSET:	TITLES: NOTES ON OUR FOOD PROBLEM A FILM BY JAMES BLUE CO DIRECTED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY STEVAN LARNER. EDITED BY LEE ALEXANDER AND MEYER ODZE. NARRATION WRITTEN BY GILL DENNIS AND JAMES BLUE.

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SUNSET.

Two people are added to the population every second.
From the time I say go until the end of the film, 5000 more people will be added to the earth. What you are going to see is happening now.
Go.

CINEMA-CART.
CHILDREN.

(LS: STREET)
These are some of the people who may face famine within the next 20 years. Our search for images begins.

CART.
PHONOGRAPH.
CHILDREN.

This man is a wandering motion picture impresario. He travels from village to village every year at festival time.
This is his theater.
This is his orchestra.
And this is his audience.
Here, for a few moments, these children can drive a racing car, own a transistor radio, play an electric guitar, wear a tailored suit, fly a jet around the world, wear a self-winding wristwatch.

These children, at a time when the world for each person is growing less food, look beyond the images in this dark box, and begin to dream of a better life.

Their dreams are a force that can change the world.
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AFRICAN HUTS AND FAMILY.
BOY (EDMOND).

My name is Edmond and these are all my relatives.

EDMOND:

This is my grandmother. This is my mother. This is a man who makes a funny noise.

NARRATOR:
Let me hear you play your horn.

EDMOND:

We are waiting for rain. We don't plant maize, because we don't get rain. So all we eat is millet and cassava. And there you see my sister grinding cassava. This is my sister. This is the flour from the cassava.

BOY WITH DISTORTED STOMACH.

And the small boy who seems to have eaten too much porridge. It's only that he does not get enough milk to drink. By then his stomach cannot be good. We don't drink milk because we don't have the money to buy it.

EDMOND:

BABY CRIES. (LS - CHILD.)
They want to sing a song for you. Would you like it? You start. (ALL THE RELATIVES SING A SONG.)
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A BOY AND TWO MEN DRYING LONG SILKS CLOTHS IN THE SUN.

People like these have already begun to change the world. In the last 20 years they have created new nations. They improved living conditions. They have eliminated much disease. Children born in this short time have had a better chance to live.

But their success has created a new problem: Of all the people alive today, over one-half are under 19 years of age.

These people will soon have families. If each new family has only one child, the world's population will explode. There will be over a billion more people on earth.

And these billion new people - like their parents - will expect to live better.

SHIP UNLOADING CARGO OF GRAIN.

This is a grain shipment from another country. Today the cities of three continents depend upon this food to live.

GRAIN CONVEYOR BELT.

This grain costs money. As long as money is spent to feed these people, it cannot be spent to develop the country.

PEOPLE COOKING ON SIDEWALK OF CITY.

CITY FILLED WITH SMOKE FROM MEALS.

Here is an image.

EMPTY SHIP GRAIN HOLD.

This is the smoke of evening meals, it is not the smoke of industry. It clouds the city like the dream of a steel mill that will never be built.

After the dream, the nightmare.

DRAWBRIDGE GOES UP AND SHIP PASSES.

Everywhere populations are growing.
Everywhere more food is needed.

Today only a few countries supply the food most nations need.

It is only a matter of time before the last ship arrives and the food from abroad runs out.

As long as a nation depends upon these ships for food, its development may be slowed down. And if these ships stop coming, there may be famine.

FACES ON BRIDGE.

People are impatient. They want to live better. But they *must* have food.

SHIPS COMING THROUGH BRIDGE

Sixty percent of the nations of Africa, Asia, and Latin America are farmers. Why don't they grow more food?

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AFRICA FARMLAND.

(LS-COUNTRY)

If the world is to feed itself, it's from farms like these that most of the food must come.

AFRICAN WOMAN SEPARATES BANANAS WHILE HER HUSBAND WATCHES.

Now let's play a game. This is Pauline, wife of Luka. She and her husband have a farm like many others.
For the next minute or so, try to see if you would grow more food were you Luka.

PAULINE WALKS TO MARKET.

Every week on marketing day your wife walks to the local market. There are bigger markets farther away. The roads are good and there is a bus. But there is no way of knowing before you get to the bigger markets what the price will be. So the bus then is a needless risk of precious cash.

So you send your wife to the nearby market. You don't risk the cash. And everyone else has made the same decision as you.

Here is an image that unites all continents, all races, all of humanity. One of mankind's oldest rituals.

MARKET FULL OF SELLERS.

One day out of every week in every part of the world a market takes place. Sacrament, the reenactment of the birth of civilization. But here, the market goes on like a ritual that has lost its purpose.

There are many sellers. Few buyers. Everyone waits. Everyone sells. Almost everyone sells the same thing.

Now what would you do? It's too risky to go to farther markets, and nearby there are few buyers.

Would you grow more food? Let's ask Luka.

LUKA AT HOME THROWS OUT A BASKET OF SPOILED BANANAS.

LUKA: "I can grow anything I want on my land. I can grow fruits and vegetables of all kinds. It's a place to take them that's lacking. We have no market.

"My brother tried planting pineapples. Almost a hundred stems. But no one would buy.

"So I only grow enough food for my family."

PAULINE SEPARATES ROTTEN BANANAS FROM GOOD.

NARRATOR: Luka could grow more food, but he can't sell it The world may starve. Luka won't.

DROUGHT -STRICKEN CORN FIELD. OLD AFRICAN IS INTERVIEWED.

About 300 miles to the Southeast is the farm of Ngirichi. Like Luka, he only grows enough to feed his family. But while Luka can grow all the food he needs, Ngirichi is hit every two or three years by drought.

NGIRICHI: "Look, the sun has dried it all up. There is nothing left (He laughs.) Nothing, Nothing, Nothing."

NARRATOR: We asked Ngirichi if he ever tried to grow more food.
He said he would have to mortgage his farm to get the money to.

If he were hit by a drought like this one, he would not only lose his crop but his farm as well.
He will not take that chance.
Ngirichi's decision is rational.

A STREAM ON NGIRICHI'S FARM.

There is a stream at the bottom of the hill one-half a mile away.
A pump might solve Ngirichi's problem, but he cannot afford one. So he says: "I just watch the river flow and the corn wither."

WOMAN CHOPS CORN STALKS.

INTERVIEW WITH NGIRICHI.

How many bags of grain do you need for your family?
- About ten bags.
How many are in your family?
- About twenty.

Why do you never say an exact number?
- It's a traditional belief. If we say an exact number somebody may die.

How many bags will you get from this crop?
-Just one! (He laughs.)
- The Joke's on us.
- We may starve.

NGIRICHI LAUGHS.

The world needs more food. The farmer is not growing it. The risks are too great.

AFRICAN BOYS COPY WORDS FROM A RECORD.
OUTSIDE A YOUNG BOY CARRYING WATER LOOKS ON.

Not far from Ngirichi we found these images.
Every evening in a thatched hut, three young Africans copy the words from a record player.

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PICTURESQUE TRADITIONAL COUNTRYSIDE.
FARMERS IRRIGATING WITH OLD METHODS.

These farmers have worked this way for over 2000 years. They are part of a traditional culture. It has been said that the traditional farmer, given the opportunity to change, would not.
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SMALL GIRLS IN A DANCE CLASS.

You're in a school of traditional dance. These girls are learning Baratnatyam. They've been studying only a short time. They must master the mechanics of over 80 basic postures.

To do this, they must work for at least eight years. They go as far as they can toward their goal: the limits of their possibilities as dancers.

Along with the gestures, these girls are learning three traditional values: self-perfection, patience, and determination.

RICE BREEDING.

Self-perfection, patience, and determination.

SCIENTIST CROSS-BREEDING RICE

A new rice was developed a few years ago. This new seed produced four times as much rice as the old seed and could

PLANTS.	be planted three times a year. Here was a chance to feed millions of more people. It has been said that the traditional farmer, given the opportunity to grow more food, would not, and so in the small district he was tested.
FARMER EQUIPPED WITH GEAR FOR PESTICIDE. HE SHOWS OTHERS HOW IT IS USED.	Here is an image: He is a hero of the space age. We found him at an agricultural demonstration. While men take off for the moon, this farmer and others like him are learning to develop the earth. In this test the farmer was guaranteed a market and a profit He learned to grow more. He was guaranteed water, fertilizer, pesticide, money at low interest He learned to grow more. The farmer was given support he had never received before. He grew four times more rice than ever before.
AGRICULTURE DEMONSTRATION.	***
TRADITIONAL DANCER. WOMEN IN FIELDS PLANT RICE SEEDLINGS WHILE GAMMA RAY MACHINE IRRADIATES SEEDS TO CAUSE MUTATIONS.	(MUSIC) Today, most farmers are not getting the support they need to grow more food. So science is trying to find a more fertile seed that can be grown without any of the costly supplies. Seeds placed in this machine are exposed to gamma radiation. Gamma rays cause mutations in the seeds. Each mutation will produce a plant different in some way from every other. Only one mutation out of ten million may be useful but the search is so desperate to find that one mutation that all ten million must be planted.
GAMMA RAY MACHINE.	The farmer has seen what science can do. He now knows he could live better. But he is not getting the opportunity. This knowledge has produced its own mutation: A new kind of man.

END

GROUP OF IRRITATED FARMERS COMPLAINING THROUGH A TRANSLATOR.

FIRST MAN: There is a limit to what we can do. If we don't get fertilizer on time, or pesticide, or water, we cannot grow more. We are not sloppy farmers.
SECOND MAN (interrupting): I planted the new seeds 20 days ago. The time has come to apply the fertilizer.
For two weeks I have been running to the store to get it and there is none. If I don't get it by the end of the week my whole crop will be spoiled and I run the risk of starvation.
THIRD MAN: We want to progress! I have a boy here. And soon he must go to school for an education. All these things mean I will have to work harder and harder.
FOURTH MAN: We are not lazy! Can I not get a car like you? I want a better building than the one in which I am staying. We all are struggling for better things!

NARRATOR:

Listen to this man. The world must listen to him, if it is to feed itself. He is a typical farmer. He speaks for 60% of the population of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Science has shown him that it is possible to grow more food. He has proven that he will respond. He is not getting what he needs. He is our one hope to stop famine and he is dissatisfied.

F AMILY MIGRATING.

NARRATOR:

Every month thousands of farmers stop trying to grow food and move to the city. Their departure makes a weak farm system even weaker. These people too seek someone to listen. Now instead of feeding others, it is the farmer who must be fed.

FAVELA.

Why do they come? What do they want?

PORT IN FAVELA.

At the top of this slum, we found the son of a farmer, who was also a poet. He was very nervous. It was the first time that anyone had ever listened.

POET: I will buy you shoes and dresses,
Many jewels and precious stones,
I will do all for you in my power.

When you pass by in the street,
Everything smiles in flowers,
The sun, the sky, the moon,
In a delirium of love.

Soon the day will come
When you will be mine, only mine,
I will be full of joy,
I will make you a queen.

I will give you a golden crown,
I will have your teeth fixed,
Perfect, White, a treasure.

I will give you a silver necklace and a pearl ring.
I will bring a lily from the field,
For you who adore me.

INTERVIEWER: Why did you leave the farm and come to live in this slum?

MAN AND HIS FAMILY IN FAVELA.

MAN: It's better here than on the farm. Not much but more or less. On the farm we didn't have shoes for the kids. We made shoes out of truck tires. Here, it's not like that. You didn't have shoes like that back there. Here the clothes are better. You can buy a radio and many other things. But I'm going back as soon as I can get some money saved up. 1 want to go back and buy a little piece of land. But I'm not going back until we can be our own boss and get the profit from the land.

NARRATOR:

PREGNANT WOMEN CLIMBING FAVELA STAIRS.

What does the farmer want? It's very simple. The farmer wants what many other people already have. He wants the money to buy those things which in a modern world bring self-respect and pleasure. If the farmer is to grow more food, he must be given what he needs to earn that money.
If he cannot earn that money on the farm, he may leave and go in search of it. This is a force that can develop a nation or it will destroy it.

FAVELA COVERING HILLSIDE RIVER VALLEY.

Here is an image. It is the farmer's desire. If we are to get the food we need, the farmer must get the life he wants. This land is part of a project to give it to him. Properly irrigated, this land could feed 25 million people.

EXPERIMENTAL STATION.

This is the experimental station responsible for the project.

4 MEN.

And these are some of the men in charge. They are part of a special drama. The development of agriculture.

INTERVIEW WITH DAGMAR.

DAGMAR: The idea of the project is simple: irrigate the land and bring the farmers onto it to grow food.

But what will happen if the farmer comes without the slightest knowledge of what will grow here or how best to grow it?

What if there is no market for what he grows? Or he has no knowledge of it?

What if the size of his land is not enough to satisfy fully the needs of his family?

What would we be creating?

An agricultural slum!

In order to guarantee the farmer a real opportunity, we must research, experiment and plan to achieve our goal.

SIMOES DIGGING SOIL SAMPLES FROM A TRENCH.

SIMOES: First, we dug trenches like this all over the area. About 2600 square kilometers. At least three for a square kilometer. We have to get samples from the soil to send to the lab to see if the soil is a good one.
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GILBERTO:

This test is the textural classification of the soil. Each tube must be agitated for one minute, then five minutes later, a sample must be taken at five centimeters deep. And after five hours another sample must be taken at a depth of 10 centimeters. It takes a total of 48 hours have to the complete results for each test.

QUESTIONER:
GILBERTO:

How long have you been doing this?
Four years.. .four years.
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CHAGAS SEATED NEXT TO A FIELD OF SPRAY IRRIGATION.

(CHAGAS:) The soil analysis only gives you an idea. Then the real work comes. You have to find out what will grow. Will onions grow? Will potatoes grow? Will tomatoes grow? Will peanuts grow? etc. And all this is just a start.

Which varieties of each plant grow the most?

Which of those are the most resistant to the pests and

diseases of the area?

Then, what is the best way to plant?

How much space between the rows, how much water should each plant have, how much sun?

How much fertilizer gives the most economic results?

Then you have to see what is the best time to plant Which month gives you the best results.

QUESTIONER: How long does each test take?
CHAGAS: There is no rule. The time it takes from planting until you harvest it.
QUESTIONER: Have you found a plant that is efficient in this area?
CHAGAS: Yes, we are almost certain that we've got a peanut.
QUESTIONER: About how long did it take?
CHAGAS: More or less four years.

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It takes time to develop agriculture. While there is still time, we must give the farmer what he needs. If we do not, the world may see the beginnings of widespread famine.

SHIP COMES WITH GRAIN.

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MONTAGE OF BABY BIRTH,
HARVEST AND GRAIN.
SHIP PASSING THROUGH DRAWBRIDGE.

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FARMER WINNOWING. GRAIN RUNS OUT OF HIS BASKET. HE WALKS AWAY.