Per capita availability of arable land, hectares	0. 5
Percent of world fertilizer production	1. 4
Labor force in agriculture, range from:	
Argentina and Uruguay (percent)	25
Haiti, Bolivia, and Central America (percent)	over 60
Literate population (percent)	40
Average income per capita, all Latin America	$254
Highest income per capita, Venezuela	$600
Lowest income per capita, Haiti	$65

Cuba's situation is interesting for a number of reasons. Nearly half of its food grain requirements normally were imported, somewhat over 400,000 tons. The cost of the grain imports was about half that of sugar exports to the United States. Cuba's sugar production went to the United States at a premium price. Half the market for its sugar—the United States—disappeared in the course of a year. Today, the value of Cuba's sugar exports in the world market are not significantly different from the cost of wheat imports. The U.S. producers of sugarbeets and foreign cane producers can meet any U.S. demand. The increase in productivity of U.S. sugarbeet producers has been a remarkable development—40 percent in a period of 5 years.

However the course of Cuban affairs may turn, the increasingly critical concern of U.S. policy is with the non-Communist less developed countries that are gradually moving toward the disorder that hunger and crowding create.

Africa

With about 240 million inhabitants, Africa has the soil and climate required to meet the food needs of its growing population if the resources were only used effectively. At present, Africa is a diet-deficit area, and in some areas there are critical nutritional shortages. The Department of Agriculture lists the Republic of South Africa and the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland as the only two African countries where food consumption meets nutritional standards.

Wheat production is lagging behind population growth, and in 1958 import needs amounted to about 2 million tons. Production of other major foods have been keeping pace with population increases in Africa as a whole. However, there have been shortages of animal proteins, pulses, and fats in some areas and countries. Part of the problem is the lack of an adequate marketing system—there may be a deficit in pulses in one area, while nearby there is a surplus.

Most of Africa's modern agriculture is in export crops. Its leading exports—averaging about $3.4 billion annually during the late 1950's—were cotton, tea, tobacco, and hard fibers. The production of coarse grains and vegetable oils is increasing and these foods are expected to become important exports during the next decade. Food accounts for most of Africa's imports, which amount to about a third of the value of exports. Among these are grain and grain products, the most important, and sugar and dairy products.

North Africa imports large amounts of grain since calorie deficiencies are greater there than in other parts of Africa. Egypt, where the population has been increasing at an annual rate of more than half a million, has more need for wheat imports than any other African country. During the past decade, in which about 5 million people were added to the population, the Egyptian output of food grains