

would mean an increase in the world population of over 800 million (from 2,878 million in 1959 to 3,685 million in 1972). The prospect is that the Sino-Soviet bloc will have about twice as many people as the industrialized West and the less developed countries close to three times as many. Both the Sino-Soviet bloc and the less developed countries will gain in population relative to the industrialized West.

The agricultural production trends show even greater contrasts for these three world areas. It may be said that the agricultural picture is the population picture turned upside down. The countries in the Western area, with the smallest number of people and the slower rate of annual increase, has the highest per capita agricultural production and the fastest annual rate of increase. The less developed countries as a group, with the largest share of the world's population, shows the slowest rate of annual increase. The Sino-Soviet bloc is in the middle. These per capita production trends are shown in chart II.

Before World War II (1935-39), the industrialized West and Japan produced about 475 kilograms per capita of grains, pulses, root, and tuber crops. By 1959, this had increased by about 30 percent to 620 kilograms. At this rate of expansion, per capita production of these products would go to about 665 kilograms, an increase of 9 percent between 1959 and 1971.

Both the Sino-Soviet bloc as a group and the underdeveloped countries as a group suffered setbacks in agricultural production during the war years. In the Sino-Soviet bloc, per capita production of grains, pulses, tubers, and roots dropped from 420 kilograms in 1935-39. By 1950, it was still down to 340 kilograms but subsequently recovered to the prewar per capita level by 1956. The lower figure shown here for 1959 reflects adverse growing conditions, particularly in Russia and China. Recovery in grain production did not begin in Russia until 1961 but the poor crops in China in 1960 and 1961 suggest that the total per capita production for the Sino-Soviet bloc is at present (1961) probably no greater than in 1956 or in the prewar years, but still substantially greater than in 1950.

This irregular record makes it difficult to point to the probable increase in Sino-Soviet production by 1971. Perhaps as good a guess as any, based on the 1950-59 figures, is that the bloc may experience an increase of 10 to 12 percent per capita. Its production would then be about 470 kilograms per capita and about 30 percent below that of the industrialized West.

Similarly the per capita production of these selected crops in the less developed countries fell from 270 kilograms in 1935-39 to less than 210 kilograms in 1950. Recovery to the prewar level has been slow, held down in part by the increase in population. Here, too, the 1950-59 record is not adequate for judging the probable 1971 production level, but as good a guess as one may make would point to about 285 kilograms per capita or about a 5-percent increase over the prewar figure.

If these trends materialize, the world will still face the great issues generated by the food gap, 285 kilograms per capita in the underdeveloped countries, 670 in the industrialized West, and in between, but advancing faster, the Sino-Soviet group with 470.

A more comprehensive analysis of world agricultural production trends in relation to population changes is presented by the U.S.