

INTRODUCTION

The gravest problem facing man in a peaceful world is the establishment of a reasonable harmony between a stabilized world population and the environmental resources upon which that population depends.

Man, like other organisms, lives in and depends upon environment. That environment, it is increasingly clear, is both limited and vulnerable. Millions of human beings at present exist with inadequate food. Vast quantities of wastes reduce the quality of our environment.

Mankind is engaged in a program of self-defeat. Human population increases at an unprecedented rate, and it has proved difficult to stabilize population in those countries where stability is most needed. Technological power is altering environment at an increasing rate, often in ways which are to man's disadvantage--erosion, occupation of prime farm land by housing, atmospheric pollution, and the widespread use of poisons intended for pests. The product of increase in population and increase in the technological power of that population is an increase in rate of detrimental change in the environment on which man depends.

There is no present reason for confidence that man will succeed in bringing about a harmony between his population and environment. It does not seem that technology alone can produce a long-term solution. Technological progress can increase food production and improve environmental conditions, but such benefits are only palliatives if population meanwhile increases. Technological expedients may also produce unforeseen environmental detriment, as in the case of currently increasingly pollution problems. Solution of the problems of man's relation to his environment is possible only through difficult, long-range decisions on limitation of both population and the technological modification of