

■ *Special report: Feeding the Future:*
A Conversation with Nobel Laureate Norman Borlaug
pages fourteen and fifteen.

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THE CARTER CENTER NEWS

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FALL 1988

The Competitive Edge: Conference Explores U.S. Role in World Marketplace



Red Holsclaw

U.S. Secretary of Labor Ann McLaughlin, former President Jimmy Carter, and Scientific-Atlanta Chairman Sidney Topol co-chair the "Consultation on Competitiveness."

America's ability to compete in the world marketplace was the topic of the "Consultation on Competitiveness" held at the Center April 25-26. The results of the conference were passed on to President-elect George Bush as part of the American Agenda, a bipartisan set of recommendations from a group of former administration officials headed by former Presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford.

At the first session of the two-day conference, co-chairs Jimmy Carter and Ann McLaughlin, Secretary of

Labor, challenged the more than 100 participants to come up with specific solutions to various aspects of the competitiveness problem. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, who delivered the keynote address, called for "fiscal restraint" when addressing economic and competitiveness issues. Conference participants then compiled a list of bipartisan recommendations focusing on six vital areas that affect competitiveness.

Business and labor leaders, educators and economists, researchers
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Caribbean Leaders Re-examine Human Rights Commitment

Two prime ministers and several high government officials were among the participants in the Center's October conference "The English-Speaking Caribbean and the Inter-American Human Rights System."

The goal of the conference, which was co-sponsored by The Carter Center of Emory University's Human Rights program and The Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, was to familiarize the legal and political communities in the region with the American Convention on Human Rights and to urge its adoption. Topics of discussion included: civil and political rights under the Convention; the legal and constitutional implications of Convention ratification; and the functions and powers of the Inter-

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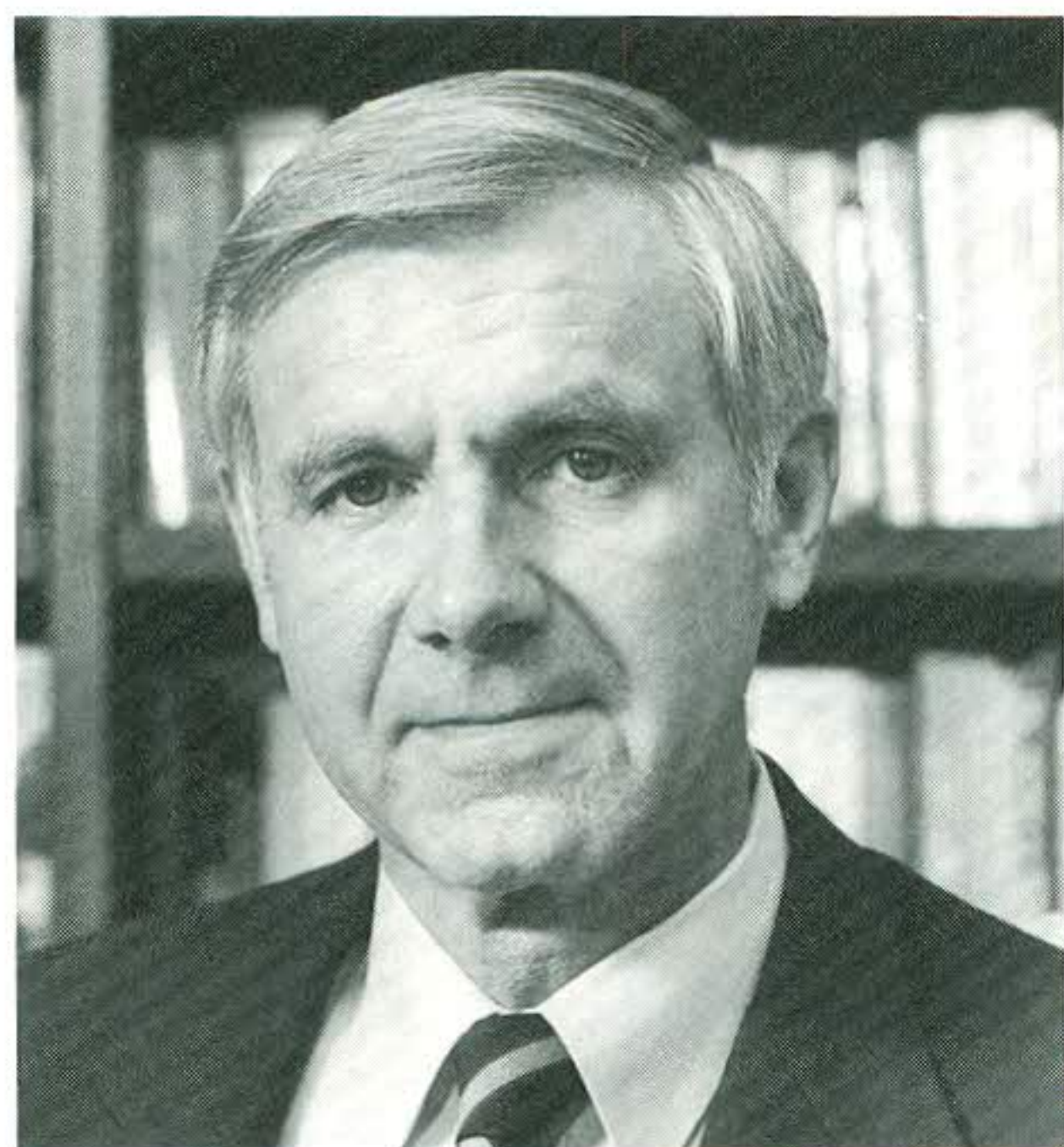
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Carter and Ford Offer Bipartisan Advice to President-Elect . . . p. 5

Center Initiates Governance in Africa Program p. 7

In Perspective: A Continent at Risk



Billy Howard

*William H. Foegen, Executive Director,
The Carter Center.*

The interrelatedness of activities may be self-evident to some, but most of us tend to focus on single issues until the relationships are made obvious. Polybius made the point 2000 years ago when he said the world must be seen as an organic whole where everything affects everything else.

Our hope, of course, is that the effect of our actions here at The Carter Center is not only positive but that the final product is greater than the sum of the parts. To focus on Africa, for example, many feel that the problems of development on that continent are the most difficult faced anywhere in the world. The combination of population growth, disease, fragile soil systems, desertification, political instability in some areas, lack of an African economic market, low literacy rates and an inadequate infrastructure for transportation and communications all act synergistically to make development activities a challenge.

But positive actions are also synergistic. The activities covered in this and other issues complement each other. The agricultural efforts in Ghana and other countries provide hope for long-term nutritional solutions. This in turn will have favorable impacts on infant and childhood mortality, the length and seriousness of illness and the energy level of students and workers. The elimination of guinea worm will improve health, reduce school absenteeism and improve agricultural productivity. The use of the drug Mectizan will reduce the occurrence of river blindness and clear the way for agriculture in fertile but once infested areas. Well-implemented immunization programs and the sum of all preventive medicine efforts will reduce the needless bondage that keeps people from meeting their potential.

In the final analysis, development in Africa will come from Africans rather than from outsiders trying to change the continent, as is true for other regions in the world. But others can

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help in removing the barriers that have kept many Africans from fully using their talents and capitalizing on the possibilities in their countries and on their continent. The need for leaders who recognize the require-

ments of the continent and have the skills to achieve them, and the need for a populace that has the freedom, the ability and the energy to use their talents is inextricably tied to education, health, science, political science and management skills.

This is the role we attempt to play. So it is with a sense of purpose, excitement and anticipation that The Carter Center adds a new dimension to its considerable work in this region of the world with the appointment of Richard Joseph to study governance in Africa. The addition of this program will allow us to identify and analyze the needs and gaps that must be filled to facilitate development that will help the people of Africa put the pieces together. Anywhere in the world, a person or a society compromised by undernutrition, unnecessary illness, war, famine or tyrannical government realizes only a fraction of what is possible. Everything affects everything else.

William H. Foegen



Christopher R. Dowsell

Maize yield increases fourfold on Global 2000 plots.

