Reserve food just not there

"Man can live by bread alone but not women and children.

The two-day conference is spon-sored by the Tropical Studies Program which is host to an international group of participants including the Philippine Council for Agricultural Research and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Conference Director, Dr. Clarissa Kimber, said the sessions here will " . . . examine the implications of two critical problems facing mankind — problems which will-influence all of our lives between now and the year 2000 and prob-lems with which TAMU has long recognized and sought to solve with its special skills.

Johannes van Overbeek, professor of biology, said countries that depended on low cost grain reserves are in trouble because reserves are now non-existent. This comes on the heels of news that some 10 million tons of grain are needed within the next few months to prevent extensive death by starvation in the poorest countries.

'Grain that used to come from Food for Peace has been taken over by the National Security Council and is being distributed on a political basis to countries such as South Vietnam, Cambodia and Chile

which are not acutely threatened by hunger," he said. He said the 1972-73 grain crop (the best ever) can support 1.26 bill-ion people at the living standards of North Americans. North Americans.

"Obviously, with nearly 4 billion people in the world today we have already over-shot our optimum and are heading for an increasingly reduced standard of living," Van Overbeek said.

Switching to population, he said that availability of contraceptives and family planning clinics is not enough of an incentive to make women have fewer children in the poorer half of the world.

"It requires a political decision, not biological, to provide for universal education, women in the work force, free health service and social security, before the fertility rate of women will decline," Van Over-beek said.

"Soybeans," he said, "are the only ray of hope for the immediate future because soybeans provide their own fertilizer which, in turn, provides the protein required for muscle and brain cell production in children. Millions of people are currently suffering from protein deficiency that can cause irrepairable brain damage in children.

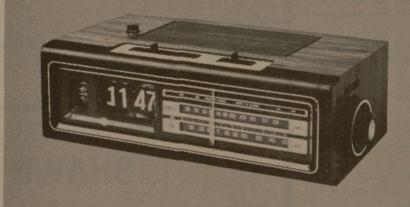
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