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Canada committed to the abolishment of world hunger

The eradication of hunger and malnutrition from the world is a goal to which Canada is fully committed, stated Agriculture Minister John Wise addressing the twentieth session of the 145-member country Food and Agriculture Organization conference in Rome on November 14.

Mr. Wise reminded the delegates that the founding conference of the FAO had been held in Quebec City in 1945, noting that Canada had played an active role in world food and agricultural matters since then. Excerpts from the Minister's address follow:

...Canada's share of the world's 1978-79 wheat and flour exports remains substantial. Although Canadian grain production declined in 1979 because of poor planting conditions in the spring, a carry-over of 15 million tonnes results in total supplies of 32.5 million tonnes for domestic use, commercial exports, food aid and emergency use. This total is basically the same as we have had for the previous three years. This production, stock, and our marketing system under the Canadian Wheat Board represent in our view a substantial practical contribution to world food security.

Transportation improvements

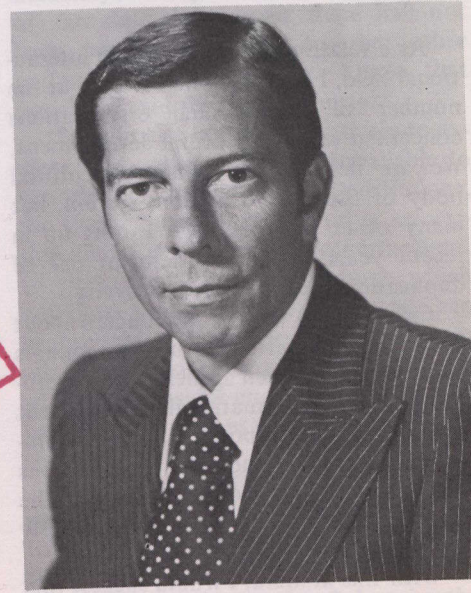
The level of Canadian wheat exports for the coming year are dependent not only

on world demand, but also on the capacity of our domestic transportation and handling system. We are making every effort to upgrade and enlarge our handling system including our terminal facilities in order to meet the demands that may be placed upon us in the future. This problem of storage and handling facilities for basic foods both in terms of the exporting countries and the receiving countries is an important issue as part of the world's food security system. We assure the conference that we are fully aware of the importance of our transport link in the international trade in grains, and it is for this reason that I make a point of referring to the improvements in the system now under way.

Canada's contributions

Last September, Canada had the honour of hosting the fifth ministerial session of the World Food Council in Ottawa. At that time, I announced that Canada would set aside \$2 million to assist developing countries to prepare long-term national food sector strategies or plans for the 1980s. We hope that this initiative will help to lead to an integrated food system approach which we believe is also an important means of moving towards achieving greater food security. In the long run, world food security can only be founded on increased production and productivity in the developing countries. Much of Canada's development assistance is directed towards progress in these areas.

We know that food aid can be a valuable development tool. Canada supports the \$1,000-million target for the two years 1981-82 as proposed by the Execu-



Agriculture Minister John Wise.

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Sixteen years ago this week...
Canada's first permanent scientific research laboratory north of the Arctic circle was completed at Inuvik in the Northwest Territories.

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