

beginning 1st July, 1945, which provides for any necessary reduction in levels of consumption of the three countries on a basis of equality. But although the deficit had been eliminated, no contribution has so far been asked for from the countries of the London Food Council Areas. It is clear that supplies will not be achieved and further reductions in consumption will be necessary. The U.K. has undertaken to approach the countries of the London Food Council area with the most urgent plea that they will contribute to this position. In addition, it is hoped that an extra 200,000 tons of ground nuts will be provided from India. It is hoped that this will be forthcoming. The supply and demand position for the first half of 1945 appears particularly difficult. Early in 1946 stocks will have been reduced to around their lowest point. It is therefore essential that all countries should make every effort to achieve the maximum economies and [in?] consumption from the present up to at least the middle of next year. In addition, it is essential that producing countries should do everything in their power to increase their production.

### MEAT

The total meat deficit is estimated at 2.5 billion pounds. Over ninety per cent. of this deficit is in the form of canned meat which is mainly required for the military. The question of a reduction in military requirements is still under consideration.

As a contribution towards meeting the deficit, the U.K. has expressed its willingness to reduce its standard of consumption to an average of 106.4 pounds per head as compared with a pre-war figure of 133. As 106.4 is the annual average rate, the actual rate of consumption during the latter part of the year will be under 100. Canada has undertaken to make substantial additional quantities of meat available for export by reducing her civilian consumption. The domestic supply position in the U.S.A. is such that U.S.A. consumption will be heavily reduced in 1945 as compared with 1944, although the average rate throughout the year will still be over 125 pounds per head with a figure of approximately 120 pounds for the balance of the year. The U.S.A. has found it necessary very substantially to reduce the amount of meat available for export during the whole year, and can make nothing available during the third quarter.

In addition to the reduction in the level of consumption in the U.K., meat stocks there will be run down to their absolute minimum. It is likely to prove very difficult to maintain the meat and bacon rations, particularly during the third quarter when no supplies will be available from the U.S. The U.K. need for additional imports will therefore be great throughout the remainder of the year, but especially during the third quarter, and any contribution which the producing countries can make, either by reducing their own consumption or making extra quantities available from their stocks, will be most gratefully accepted.