



CANADA

CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION · DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS · OTTAWA, CANADA

Vol. 17 No. 38

September 19, 1962

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CANADA AND THE WORLD FOOD BANK

The following statement was made on September 5 during the Pledging Conference of the World Food Programme at the United Nations headquarters in New York by Canada's Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Alvin Hamilton:

"...My Government considers this Conference a most important event in the history of international co-operation. Today, as each of us, on behalf of his government, makes a pledge, we launch an experimental world food programme, or, as I prefer to call it, a World Food Bank. Regardless of what we call this farsighted programme, we are making a dream, an idea, a hope, and an objective into a programme of action.

"Last November, at the FAO Conference in Rome, I said, in speaking on the proposed World Food Programme:

"It is... important that we should not allow a complete lack of clarification of details to delay our acceptance of the principles of the proposals.... We can make history if we act."

TRIBUTES

"Mr. Chairman, today we are taking action, we are making history. The organization for the World Food Programme is now an established fact. We now have an Executive Director and I want to congratulate Dr. Boerma upon his appointment. We have secured a highly-qualified and experienced administrator to head our new agency. He has put together an excellent staff. He has sent out three missions at the request of the countries concerned. We have an Intergovernmental

Committee of 20 that has been taking its work seriously. My Delegation is pleased with the interest and desire to co-operate shown by the many UN agencies. Before the end of our meeting this afternoon, I am sure we will have provided our Executive Director with the means to go ahead at an accelerated rate.

"My Delegation also wishes to pay tribute to the many who have contributed to the development of an idea into a programme of action. Men like Lord Boyd Orr and Norris Dodds were among the pioneers. The late Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dag Hammarskjold, and Dr. Sen, the Director-General of the FAO, provided much of the necessary momentum. We are pleased that the Secretary-General of the United Nations is with us here today. We also want to congratulate both U Thant and Dr. Sen for their excellent addresses.

"...Canada has been one of the prime movers and co-sponsors of the resolutions at the United Nations General Assembly and the FAO that have resulted in all of us meeting today at this United Nations Pledging Conference. Canada has repeatedly urged that international action be taken to provide food to needy and hungry peoples in other lands. In his speech to the General Assembly of the United Nations on September 26, 1961, Prime Minister Diefenbaker said:

"I believe that much must be done on behalf of food-deficit countries, first to help them in their hour of need and then to help them raise their own levels of production. This to me is the responsibility of the United Nations as a whole to meet this challenge'.