

5. Duplicating no doubt what other delegations will submit, and not attempting to schedule all the functions of the permanent organization, we would suggest consideration of the following:

(a) Immediate collaboration with the appropriate United Nations' planning authorities in food, raw materials, etc., to submit to governments recommendations for production of commodities required for immediate post-war relief. It is not too soon to set up joint planning staffs for food and for other farm products. This primary function to include the maximizing of production towards meeting post-war needs; and to involve the adaptation of wartime arrangements for co-ordinated purchase, allocation and transport of farm products.

(b) Collaboration with existing international and other appropriate authorities (such as the International Labour Office and the Health and Economic Sections of the League of Nations) to make full use of, and to extend, their current work on problems of improving living standards.

(c) Documentation of wartime and other emergency measures which aim to make food available in greater or less measure proportionate to individuals' need, not just in proportion to ability to pay. When production is sustained and increased by governmental and other collective measures, corresponding action on the side of consumption seems clearly indicated by experience to be essential, in the interests of producers as well as consumers. The function of a clearing house for information, and for making recommendations to governments, should be of value.

(d) Recognizing that freedom of choice by the consumer is essential and that planning can increase, not abate, that freedom: to examine, in their bearing particularly on food consumption, possible national as well as international governmental measures to augment purchasing ability and make it more secure. These measures, while it is not suggested that they would be appropriate to all areas or all times, might include, e.g., provision for Social Security, Family Allowances, etc. Such measures would call for domestic rather than international action, and are hence appropriate for treatment on Clearing House lines to enable any country to gain the value of others' experience.

(e) To examine, in conjunction with appropriate authorities and experts, the detailed application of (i) resolutions from this conference and elsewhere in favour of increased consumption, and (ii) plans for buffer stocks, price stabilization, etc.; these to be considered in relation to particular commodities or groups of related commodities (e.g. dairy products and all animal and vegetable fats; or wool, cotton, and staple fibres.)

(f) To assemble and disseminate statistics and other data on farm products, having regard particularly to their bearing on measures to extend and improve consumption, marketing and production.

6. We raise for consideration the question whether the permanent organization to be set up in this field might not appropriately be confined to foodstuffs, leaving, for example, wool, cotton and related products to be covered by a separate suitable organization; the body now contemplated, such as the International Food Office, to be integrated later with any other parallel commodity organizations in an International economic authority.

7. Because of the exclusive concern of this Conference with farm products, we feel it necessary to record our sense of one danger to be guarded against. Plans to increase farmers' output, well-founded as these may be in themselves, may not be duly balanced by needed expansion in industrial production. Such a neglect could worsen rather than improve the position of the farmer, changing to his disadvantage the real terms of exchange between what he sells and what he buys. In its wide implications this is an issue beyond the scope of the present Conference; it is not, we think, a matter that can be neglected by governments.