



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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SURPLUS FOOD AND HUNGRY PEOPLE

A statement to the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee of the United Nations on October 24, 1960, by H.E.W. Irwin, Canadian Representative on the Committee.

...It is a privilege to table formally in this Committee draft resolution A/C.2/L.459, co-sponsored by Canada, Haiti, Liberia, Pakistan, United States of America and Venezuela, on the question of the provision of food surpluses to needy peoples through the United Nations system. This is a subject which my Delegation considers to be one of the most important, if not the most important, of those to be considered at this year's session of the Second Committee.

Canada has repeatedly urged that international action be taken to provide food, which is in surplus in some parts of the world, to needy and hungry peoples in other lands. It is one of the great anomalies of our time that there are widespread areas in desperate need of food while at the same time there are other areas where foodstuffs are in abundant surplus. Surely the international community has developed a sufficient sense of responsibility and adequate experience with the techniques of international co-operation to find some way by now out of this dilemma. The co-sponsors have joined together to submit draft resolution A/C.2/L.459 in an effort to have the Assembly consider this tragic human problem as a matter of great urgency. In his speech to the General Assembly on September 26, Prime Minister Diefenbaker re-emphasized Canada's determination to seek international action on this question, stating: "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." He went on to say: "We envisage a food bank to provide food to member states through the United Nations. Such a scheme would require the establishment of concerted machinery which take into account established patterns of trade and marketing and co-ordinate the individual surplus disposal to improve the effective utilization of wheat."