

or through cuts in ration distribution;

- (b) the conclusion that the Government of Bangladesh is taking positive steps to improve the usage of foodgrains and that Canadian food aid can help those Government programs which result in such improved usage as well as in meeting general developmental objectives.

On this basis Canada should continue its discussions with the Government of Bangladesh, along the lines taken at the Aid Group Meeting, to encourage a reduction in leakages of locally grown rice, to increase local procurement of rice and to direct more foodgrains to the poorer elements of society. We should also encourage other donors to support these initiatives. Canada should take special steps to ensure that the foodgrain deliveries are timed to meet demand. This, together with increased local procurement, will help stabilize food prices and help reduce starvation during emergencies.

FOOD CONFERENCE

While Canadian food aid is a major contribution towards helping reduce the crisis situation facing the people of the hungry nations, food aid alone is not enough to combat the long-term problems that inevitably face the international community. The urgency of the short-term crises created by the rapidly deteriorating world food situation must not overshadow the need to start immediately the building of a framework to overcome the spectre of long-term food shortages.

Toward this end, in addition to the aforementioned pledges of food aid, Canada was an active participant in discussions during the Rome Food Conference which called for the creation of new international machinery, under United Nations' auspices, to bridge the gap between existing bodies and the need for co-ordinated international measures to keep in abeyance the spectre of hunger that threatens so many of the world's citizens.