

At the opening session of the Food-For-Peace Conference held in Washington in May 1959, the Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Lester B. Pearson, expressed Canada's hearty support for the humanitarian objectives of the President of the United States in his proposals to increase the more effective utilization of surplus food supplies in the interests of peace and stability. The Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Pearson, also mentioned the Canadian view on this subject, which was set out in the report of the Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Pearson, to the House of Commons in the last session of the 14th Parliament in October 1957.

My delegation recognizes that the world is open to improvement and I would emphasize that we are deeply interested in the views of other delegations on the subject raised in that resolution. For our part, we would certainly hope that the FAO in its study of food stability and the acceptability of new arrangements for working and distributing available surplus foodstuffs in areas of greatest need, will find it possible to recommend for this purpose the establishment of a U.N. Food Bank which would be supported by all member countries on an equitable financial basis. As Mr. Pearson has said on September 25, "A few countries cannot undertake the costs of transferring their surplus foodstuffs to areas of need. What we need is to join together in a common effort to find a solution of this world-wide problem." Canada would be pleased to share any food surplus that may be established as a result of the FAO study with the other countries and workers. We fully agree with the distinguished representative of Argentina when he stated that any international arrangements established for the disposal of surplus agricultural commodities must avoid damage to legitimate and normal commercial trade. Our own view has been that the food surplus should be distributed in a way that would be helpful to the countries and we would certainly have been glad to have our own surplus support any action which would have that effect. The FAO representative has also mentioned the concept of a world food reserve, which was also mentioned at various times in the past. But I am not changing and my delegation is convinced that a fresh look at the problem, in an atmosphere of goodwill and sympathy for the world's hungry people, could produce concrete results.

The problem is a difficult one, but in our view the solution is at the greatest urgency for everyone and numbers of hungry people increase. Let our goal be the abolition of hunger in a world where hunger should no longer exist and let us now join together in taking a great and decisive step towards it.

Mr. Chairman, I now propose to recommend unity of the text of the resolution which has been referred to some of the countries and delegations have been good enough to make their views known and I am sure that the subject of the statement which I have made in the first part of my intervention tonight will be a very important one in this second part of the session. In the first part of my intervention, I have mentioned the spirit in which the resolution has been received. We believe that there is now a general appreciation of the purpose.