

FAO—Tenth Session*

OVER A three-week period from October 31 to November 20, 1959, representatives from 76 member countries met in Rome to discuss progress being made in the production, marketing and consumption of the essentials of life derived from the soil, the sea and the forest. This session was also well attended by observers from the nine sister agencies of the United Nations and by observers from nearly 50 other governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Before the Conference ended, membership was granted to the Republic of Guinea, making a total of 77. Associate membership was accorded to the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, the Republic of Chad, the Malagash Republic and the Republics of Gabun, Senegal and Soudan. Associate membership was also granted to Cyprus, the Federation of Nigeria and Somalia, with the added provision that they will become full members from the day upon which, after the end of trusteeship or their reaching independence, they confirm their desire to be members of the FAO. The State of Cameroon and the Republic of Togo will become members from the day upon which, after the end of trusteeship, they, too, confirm their desire to become members. It is significant that 11 of the 12 countries or territories listed above are in Africa.

The Canadian Delegation was led by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. D. S. Harkness. Dr. J. F. Booth of the Department of Agriculture was the Alternate Delegate. Other departments represented on the Canadian Delegation included Fisheries, Northern Affairs and National Resources (Forestry), Health and Welfare (Nutrition), Trade and Commerce and External Affairs.

The highlights of the meetings included active consideration of the problem of the rate of increase of food production and the rate of population increase; of the chronic surplus problem; of the related question of price support and stabilization measures; of agrarian reform; and special-action programmes proposed by the Director-General—the World Seed Year and the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign.

The FAO Conference had, in addition to the review of the above issues and consideration of the action required, to deal with the programme of work of the 10 technical divisions of the Organization, and financial, administrative and constitutional questions. The Conference re-elected Mr. Sen of India as Director-General of the FAO for another four years. It enlarged the Council by one seat to a total of 25. Canada was re-elected to the Council for a three-year term. The programme of work of the technical divisions and the 1960-61 biennial budget of \$18,451,000 were approved. Canada's share is 4.09 per cent of the total, which makes it the fifth largest contributor.

All this activity was formally approved by passing 97 resolutions.

*By Frank Shefrin, Secretary, Canadian Interdepartmental FAO Committee, and a member of the Canadian Delegation.