

Philippines for making possible the productive session held in Manila last June, and to Secretary Tanco for his most effective chairmanship and for his excellent presentation to the Committee.

The World Food Council's Report is notable first and foremost for the Manila Communique: a Programme of Action to Eradicate Hunger and Malnutrition. Rarely have the issues in this field been addressed in such a comprehensive and far-reaching document. My delegation wishes to put our support for the Communique on record here, as we did in Manila, and joins in calling for its adoption by the General Assembly and its implementation by Member States. In this connection I would like to take a few minutes to summarize our views on the major substantive questions raised by the Communique.

On food production, Canada agrees with the idea of designating food priority countries and making special efforts to help these countries. We are already helping to increase food production in the poorer countries, a fact that is reflected in the doubling of the proportion of our bilateral assistance programmes devoted to assistance to agriculture. We are prepared to do more. Canada is scheduled to ratify the IFAD Agreement later this month, and we have pledged \$33 million for the initial three year period. Further, we are in effect already giving special treatment to many of the food priority countries thanks to our development assistance programmes' focus on the least developed countries.

At the same time, we look to developing countries to make firm decisions to give agriculture a higher priority and to transfer a higher proportion of their resources to production in that sector. In Canada we have emphasized the importance of planning and developing an effective policy framework to give farmers the incentives they need to increase their investments and efforts. There is much that developing countries can do along these lines and, as the Manila communique recommends, the planning efforts should be furthered by help from the U.N. agencies. In turn, the World Food Council should maintain a watching brief with respect to the use made of outside assistance by developing countries.

Canada supports the objective of world food security and the principle of maintaining the necessary reserve stocks. With the stocking practices of our Wheat Board marketing system, we are in a position to cover emergency requirements as well as aid pledges and commercial commitments, and thus we have no need to convert a proportion of our stocks into national reserves. We believe that reserve stocks arrangements should be concluded as part of a possible new International Wheat Agreement since in this way the requirements of food security and market stability can be harmonized to a significant extent. Since the benefits from such arrangements would be shared by all, the same should be true for the costs, in which the importers should share as well as the exporters.