

A Bill to provide for Canada's participation in the Food and Agriculture Organization was introduced in the Canadian House of Commons on October 4.

Relations with Other Organizations

The functions of FAO are more comprehensive than those of any previous international agency in its field, but other agencies have covered sections of the work, and the question of FAO's relationship to them naturally arises. The general principle to be followed is that world-wide organizations should be merged into FAO while it should support and co-operate with regional organizations and help them to adapt themselves so far as possible to its programs.

This principle will be considered in relation to the I.L.O. (the International Institute of Agriculture in Rome) the only world agricultural organization of long standing, and to the three international bodies dealing with forestry and forest products--the Centre International de Sylviculture (C.I.S.), the Comité International de Bois (C.I.B.), and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations.

In the field of fisheries there are three regional organizations, each representing a comparatively small number of countries. Much of the work which these bodies have done for a few countries should be done for all. The Commission recommends that there should be a continuous exchange of information with them on developments and products.

Close association will be maintained between FAO and such working agencies as the Combined Food Board and the Middle East Supply Centre. Some of the data they have collected will be of value to the Organization. For example, the study of comparative levels of food consumption made by the Combined Food Board.

By itself FAO could make only limited progress towards the goal of abolishing want, but it will have an working partners international organizations concerned with solving world problems of labour, health, monetary stabilization, trade and commerce, health, education, security and other matters vital to the welfare of all peoples. The constitution provides for FAO becoming part of the United Nations Organization, where it will take the place in relation to the Social and Economic Council among the other international organizations with specialized responsibilities. The success of FAO will depend to a large extent on the success of the whole United Nations effort towards international security and an expanding world economy.

The First Year

FAO began its operations at a time when the world is trying to establish itself after the ordeal of war. In the immediate post-war period governments will be seeking ways to increase agricultural production, to raise living standards of producers and otherwise to stabilize world markets relating to food and agriculture. It will be a year for food to come new programs before the old patterns of thought and action become established. This period offers a rare opportunity for the nations to make a new and concerted attack on old problems.

The solution will be long. In some quarters the attack on the economic life of the food distribution has been slow, and in others it has been rapid. In some quarters, food has increased, in others it has decreased. The world is now entering a new phase of its economic life. Governments are preoccupied with problems of prices and economic adjustment.