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WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME - Item 52

Text of Statement on the World Food Programme  
to be Delivered in the Second Committee by the  
Canadian Representative, Miss Margaret Meagher,  
on Friday, December 10, 1965

Mr. Chairman, it is always encouraging to watch an idea take shape, to see it transformed from the abstract to the concrete. This has been the case with the World Food Programme. Today we have before us a resolution calling for the extension and expansion of the World Food Programme. As you all know it took many years to secure agreement for the establishment of an international agency which would make food aid available for economic and social development and which would have food available on call to meet emergencies. Today the World Food Programme is an operational reality with over a hundred approved projects in operation. Although the critical phase is over, and although those results produced by the experimental period have been sufficiently encouraging to justify the continuation of the Programme, we all realize that only preliminary conclusions can be made in an assessment of the projects so far completed.

The objectives of the World Food Programme are indeed far-reaching, Mr. Chairman. This programme is based on a desire to help meet the food needs of the World's undernourished, as well as to provide intergovernmental machinery to promote economic development directed to raising the level of food consumption. We do not regard the World Food Programme as a surplus disposal agency.

We have before us today, Mr. Chairman, the resolutions. I should like to deal with that contained in document A/C2/L841 first. This document contains a request to the Secretary-General to undertake a series of studies the object of which would be the examination of the means and policies which will be required for large scale international food action of a multilateral character. My own delegation, Mr. Chairman, is in favour of such studies provided they do not duplicate the studies currently being undertaken by the Committee on Commodity Problems in the FAO. In this regard my delegation considers the studies of the financial implications of such action to be of particular value.