

4. The Report of the World Food Council

Canada's commitment to the establishment of a system under which the world's people will no longer face the threat of massive shortages and deprivation goes back many years. In the United Nations system, this commitment first found expression in active participation in the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization. Other expressions of Canada's interest include the appointment of the former Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Wheat Board, Mr. G.N. Vogel, as Executive Director of the World Food Programme (to which Canada is contributing an estimated \$150 million for the years 1977-78) as well as Canada's planned contribution of \$7.5 million to the International Fund for Agricultural Development at the end of this month, and is contributing \$33 million for the first three years of the Fund's operation.

Canada's close association in the work of the World Food Council underlies its role as a co-sponsor and initiator of a resolution that calls on the General Assembly to adopt and implement the Manila Communique of the World Food Council.

The Communique underlined that while the world food supply situation in 1977 is a good deal more reassuring than that of the early Seventies, it is by no means certain that this improvement will continue. It therefore called for action "to accelerate food production ... create an adequate food reserve, to expand and improve food aid, to improve human nutrition and to liberalize and improve food trade". This is to be achieved by giving high priority to a set of long-term and more immediate steps, to be taken by both developed and developing countries, as part of an integrated programme of action to eradicate hunger and malnutrition.

The following statement was given by Mr. John Small, the Canadian Delegate to the Second Committee, November 8, 1977.

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Food problems so directly affect the existence and prosperity of individuals and nations that it is difficult to name an issue of more immediate and universal concern. Some countries, Canada among them, are in the fortunate position of growing more than enough of the major food crops needed for domestic consumption. But we all know that the situation elsewhere is far removed from this and that in some cases perennial difficulties with food are a major obstacle to national well-being and economic development. The international community's recognition of this fact has led to the establishment of numerous institutions designed to co-ordinate action and promote progress in the various areas concerned. Today, our discussion of the Report of the World Food Council, so ably introduced by the Council's distinguished Chairman, the Secretary of Agriculture of the Philippines, Mr. Arturo Tanco, gives me the opportunity to express my delegation's appreciation to the Government of the