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THE UN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

(By Frank Shefrin, Chairman, Canadian Interdepartmental
FAO Committee)

The Food and Agriculture Organization serves agriculture in the modern world by encouraging the growth, development and use of essential information, science and research, and by bringing together government officials and policy-makers for consultations leading to international action and arrangements to encourage improved agricultural production practices and to facilitate world business in agriculture. The work the FAO is called on to do includes assisting governments in:

- (a) the establishment of planning machinery;
- (b) the training of personnel;
- (c) the formulation, improvement and implementation of development plans;
- (d) the determination of guide-lines for agricultural policy that take account of resource potentialities and export possibilities;
- (e) the formulation of food standards and plant and animal protection measures.

Essentially, the entire operation is aimed at transferring knowledge and techniques to nearly 100 developing countries in order to enable them to plan rationally, to regulate their economic and social environment, and to build up trained cadres of their own. There are many difficulties to be overcome before these techniques of action can be perfected.

History Until 1945, when the Food and Agriculture Organization — one of the 14 Specialized Agencies of the United Nations — was established, no really concerted international effort had ever been launched against world-wide hunger.

An International Conference on Food and Agriculture, convened at Hot Springs, Virginia, in 1943, took the initial action toward the creation of the FAO by setting up an Interim Commission to draft a specific plan for a permanent organization concerned with food and

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