

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.I.A. (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 du 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 wartime 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 its goal of abolishing want, but it will have as working partners international organizations concerned with solving world problems of labour, credit, 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 its 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 begins its operations at a time when the world is trying to re-establish itself after the ordeal of war. In the transition period many governments will be making efforts to increase agricultural production, to raise the living standards of producers and otherwise to initiate sound policies relating to food and agriculture. It will be easier for them to adopt new programs before the old patterns of thought and action become re-established. This period offers a rare opportunity for the nations to make a new and concerted attack on old problems.

The problems will be many. In some countries the war has so dislocated economic life that food distribution has broken down, millions are hungry, and farmers lack implements, fertilizers, seeds and livestock. In others farmers are wondering how long they can continue the high production of wartime, and governments are preoccupied with problems of prices and possible surpluses.