

Conversely the recipients, past and future, have an obligation to take every reasonable measure to augment the availability of food locally, in order that food need not be diverted from those who are unavoidably hungry to feed those who are avoidably starving.

Canada accepts the main elements of a long-term food aid policy which have been recommended to us. I shall now set forth the specific response of the Canadian Government to these recommendations:

First, the Canadian Government accepts the concept of forward planning; it has decided to make its own commitment for the next three years.

Second, it agrees with the concept that, if the eroding effect of sudden price increases on the levels of food aid is to be avoided, the best way of pledging food aid is in physical terms, that is to say, in quantities of food rather than in amounts of money.

Third, Canada supports the setting of a minimum target for world aid flows of 10 million tons of foodgrains a year.

Fourth, in pursuance of these principles which we have accepted, Canada hereby commits itself to supplying an average of 1,000,000 tons of foodgrains annually for each of the next three years. In pledging thus more than a proportional amount towards the total target, we have had in mind that it is a minimum target and that we are facing a situation of extraordinary gravity. We would hope that other traditional and new donors will subscribe with us to the objective of surpassing the minimum target.

Fifth, Canada is prepared to increase substantially the allocation of commodities other than foodgrains for food aid purposes.

Sixth, we accept the proposition that multilateral food aid programs have operated to good and beneficial effect and that their continued effectiveness must be buttressed by adequate resources. Accordingly, we are prepared to channel approximately 20 per cent of Canada's food aid through these multilateral programs. In order to carry out this commitment Canada will make a supplementary contribution to the world food program.

This, Mr. President, is the substance of Canada's response to the situation of acute distress that is confronting us.

In the longer term there is clearly a need to define more closely the circumstances where food aid is appropriate, and avoid the disincentives it causes in indigenous production. There is merit in suggestions that grain stocks for emergency relief be set aside on some consistent international basis, and arrangements made for their rapid mobilization when needed, and we will help pursue this question.

Canada has long been a proponent of grains arrangements that would augment world food security and of other measures to this end. At last year's FAO conference Canada supported the principle of a voluntary undertaking on world food security and since then has participated actively in the consideration of alternative texts. The voluntary undertaking that is before the conference contains a framework of objectives whose attainment would be a significant world achievement. Canada endorses the undertaking, and will, once suitable country coverage and

implementation arrangements have been concluded, become a party to it. We must not blind ourselves, however, to the fact that much work remains to be done, particularly among the countries chiefly concerned, to make meaningful food security a reality. In this demanding and detailed task Canada will participate fully.

World food security in its broadest sense can only be attained by the prudent management of food supplies at every level—a situation where governments, growers and traders in every country use their best judgement and foresight to assess probable needs and supplies. Canada has provided a key element in world food security in the past through its supply management and maintenance of stocks. This task is one we would be happy to share more widely. Improved information can play a big role, and we hope to see all the countries at this conference contribute extensively and accurately to the proposed early warning system. Food-importing countries have an evident self-interest in improving their storage capacity, which would augment world security. On a longer-term basis security is most likely to come from providing producers and traders with stable expectations of a financial return commensurate with the value of their product—a value which few people anywhere today would be inclined to denigrate.

Two allied international fields of concern are inextricably bound up with the food problem: international trade, and the preservation of the environment.

Canada has long supported a general liberalization of trade in food products, in order to encourage the efficient producer and thereby provide more abundant food at reasonable prices. This is one of our main objectives in the impending trade negotiations in Geneva. We recognize that certain food-importing countries face an enormous challenge in meeting their food bills in the short and medium term, and that this dilemma arises in some respects from factors beyond their control. This payments problem extends into every aspect of the economies of the countries concerned, however, and it is principally through general financial measures, including those taken within the IMF or IBRD, that Canada would expect to see this problem attacked. We are confident that the Geneva trade negotiations will follow the directives to the Tokyo ministerial meeting of the GATT in September, 1973, and secure additional benefits for the trade of developing countries, and Canada will strive to see this accomplished within a non-discriminatory trading framework.

In the longer-term perspective mankind has no choice but to arrange his feeding in harmony with a balanced use of all the earth's resources, or his civilization will go the way of those of Nineveh and Babylon—which destroyed the soils that fed them. The World Population Conference of Bucharest marked the first, albeit halting, step towards using a full range of policies to control the pressures exerted on this planet's resources. Progress in this area must be accelerated. Already we are experiencing declines in catches of certain species of ocean fish, and the sea is not the only resource whose capacity might come to be tested in the foreseeable future.

World food production has maintained a precarious adequacy through notable research accomplishments and through the application of modern technology. To gain