

in establishing or reviewing their agricultural policies and, in some of the Principles, reference is made to the need to avoid the accumulation of burdensome surpluses. The Conference recognized the difficulty to the Panel of resolving divergent viewpoints and taking into account a wide range of economic and social conditions. The analytical part of the Panel's report was generally commended, but there was some disagreement regarding the Principles: on the whole there was a good discussion, and it was agreed that there was scope for further improvement and refinement. The Committee on Commodity Problems is to make further examination and revisions of the Principles. It was considered that, in revising the Principles, full account should be taken of the findings of other international organizations working in the same field, in particular GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), where country consultations on agricultural policies are now under way. The report is to be ready for the 1961 session of the FAO Conference.

Agrarian Reform

Several of the countries present at the Conference, e.g. Cuba, Venezuela, Pakistan, etc., had only recently enacted legislation regarding the holding of land. As a result there was a lengthy discussion. The Conference dealt at length with the several phases of agrarian reform, stressing the importance of thorough planning, adequate land distribution, and proper implementation of the programme. It was generally recognized that it was not agrarian-reform legislation but the implementation of land-reform programmes that involved serious technical implications. The techniques and procedures adopted for land acquisition, land distribution, and for raising the productivity of the distributed area were the decisive factors that determined the success or failure of a scheme. It was brought out at the Conference that measures of land reform must take into account the need for maintaining and improving the level of agricultural production by creating adequate technical and financial facilities for the owners and operators of the new farming units, if such measures were not to be followed by social unrest and loss of confidence of the people in agrarian reform itself.

Resolutions for the establishment of regional institutes on land reform in Latin America and Southeast Asia were approved, to deal on a continuing basis with the problems of land tenure and land use in the region, with the object of advising the governments on the necessary changes in their agrarian structures.

Mediterranean Development Project

This proposal was reviewed by the Conference. The project covers all the countries bordering the Mediterranean (except Albania and Northern Italy), together with Portugal, Jordan and Iraq, which are included because they form part of the same natural area. The unity of the region derives from the broad similarity of climatic and soil conditions and the existence of acute problems of economic development with many common characteristics.