

Final Communique
from the
**Conference on Restructuring Agriculture and Food Systems: Central
and Eastern Europe and the USSR**

- 1) Delegates, meeting in Budapest on October 21-23, 1990 at the conference organized by the International Policy Council and hosted by the Budapest University of Economics, share the universal enthusiasm for the economic and political transformation now taking place in the countries of eastern and central Europe and the USSR.
- 2) In this process, the success of reform in the food and agricultural sectors is vital. Given the political significance of food prices and supplies, the sector's importance to the overall economy, its ability to produce a rapid economic response, and to improve standards of living and the balance of payments, the conference delegates believe that the agriculture and food system has a leading role to play in the economic transformation of the region. It is therefore appropriate that it receives priority attention in both domestic policies and international assistance.
- 3) All countries in the region share the wish to develop a market-based agriculture and food sector. Each will pursue these goals differently, according to their individual circumstances and the political consensus which they