

recommendations could be carried out only through a permanent world body. In co-ordination with other international organizations, they recommended an Interim Commission be set up to formulate a specific plan for such an organization.

The Work of the Interim Commission

On July 13, 1945, six weeks after the end of the preliminary conference, the Interim Commission, headed by L. B. Pearson, now Canadian ambassador to the United States, began its work in Washington.

The task was to draw up a formal constitution for the permanent organization and to prepare a declaration in which each nation should accept its obligation to collaborate with the others in raising nutrition levels, improving agricultural production and to report the progress to the other. It decided that the constitution must be accepted by at least 20 nations. The permanent organization could be set up.

The commission was assisted by distinguished scientists and economists of various countries who gave technical advice on the scope, functions and methods of operation of the permanent organization.

Five technical reports were prepared by groups of experts: epidemiology, the results of their studies on nutrition and food management, agricultural production, fisheries, forestry and primary forest products, and statistics. These reports contain specific recommendations for action.

The work of the Interim Commission is now finished. The constitution has been accepted by more than 20 nations. Invitations to the first conference of the permanent organization were sent out on August 14, 1945, the day Japan capitulated.

When the permanent Food and Agriculture Organization comes into being with the signing of the constitution by the member nations on October 16, 1945, the Interim Commission will automatically cease to exist.

Objectives

The ends for which FAO has been established are stated in a few words in the preamble to the constitution:

"The Nations accepting this Constitution, being determined to promote the common welfare by furthering separate and collective action and their part for the purpose of

raising levels of nutrition and standards of living of the peoples under their respective jurisdictions,

securing improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products,

bettering the condition of rural populations,

and thus contributing toward an expanding world economy,

hereby establish the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations... through which the members will report to one another the measures taken and the progress achieved in the fields of nutrition and food.

The three direct aims of raising standards of eating and living, improving the production and distribution of agricultural products and bettering the condition of rural populations are interdependent and will be achieved simultaneously.