

answer to difficult problems. The Delegation expressed the view that a world economic conference would serve no useful purpose, and might conflict with work being carried out in the United Nations and elsewhere. The Assembly rejected the U.S.S.R. proposal and approved by a large majority a resolution recognizing the need for further efforts to remove obstacles to trade and promote its expansion on a multilateral basis; and recognizing that the existing international bodies and agreements provided "a framework for the effective consideration of trade problems, payments arrangements and related economic problems". The resolution urged governments to continue to work through international organizations; "to reduce or remove restriction and/or discrimination with regard to trade and payments as soon as their balance of payments and reserve positions permit"; to conduct their trade policies with due regard to their possible harmful effect on other countries; and to "follow internal economic, monetary and fiscal policies which promote high levels of production, employment and investment". The resolution¹ outlined above which was approved on February 20, 1957 by a vote of 55 in favour (including Canada), 7 against, with 4 abstentions, also urged member countries to approve the agreement establishing the Organization for Trade Co-operation.

World Food Reserve: National Food Reserves

The ninth session of the General Assembly in December 1954, following a proposal advanced by Costa Rica, adopted a resolution inviting the Food and Agriculture Organization "to prepare a factual and comprehensive report on what has been done and what is being done in connection with the establishment of a World Food Reserve". The resolution indicated four main objectives for national and international action: increasing food production and consumption and avoiding chronic malnutrition; relieving famine and other emergencies; counteracting excessive price fluctuations; and promoting the rational disposal of intermittent agricultural surpluses. In response to this General Assembly resolution, FAO submitted a study to ECOSOC's twenty-second session entitled "Functions of a World Food Reserve—Scope and Limitations". The study contained an appraisal of the manner in which a World Food Reserve might meet the objectives referred to in the General Assembly resolution, but pointed to some contradictions involved in attempting to meet all these objectives by a single mechanism, for example, it would be difficult to consider a World Food Reserve as a means of preventing famine and at the same time acting as a reserve to prevent excessive price fluctuations. The study pointed out that economic development was the only permanent solution to recurring famine and chronic malnutrition.

When this subject was debated at ECOSOC's twenty-second session, the Canadian Representative agreed that balanced economic development was the only enduring solution to famine and chronic malnutrition in under-developed areas. He referred to the record of international assistance to relieve famine in recent years and to the conclusions of a group of experts which reported to the FAO in 1953 that neither physical world food shortages nor geographic location constituted a major obstacle to the relief of

¹General Assembly resolution 1027 (XI).