

"At the opening session of the Food-for-Peace Conference held in Washington in May 1959, the Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce expressed Canada's hearty support for the humanitarian objectives of the President of the United States in his proposals to Congress for the more effective use of surplus food supplies in the interests of peace, and he recalled Prime Minister Diefenbaker's many previous suggestions for international action to alleviate distress and to promote economic development in the less fortunate countries of the world. At the last session of the FAO Assembly in October 1959, the Canadian views on this subject were once more put forward. The Canadian Minister of Agriculture, referring to the challenge of surpluses and hunger continuing side by side, urged member countries to encourage and assist multilateral action whenever possible.

#### PROTECTION OF NORMAL TRADE

"My Delegation recognizes that the draft before you is open to improvement, and I would emphasize that we are deeply interested in the views of other delegations on the issues raised in that resolution. For our part, we would earnestly hope that the FAO, in its study of the feasibility and acceptability of new arrangements for mobilizing and distributing available surplus foodstuffs in areas of greatest need, will find it possible to recommend for this purpose the establishment of a UN food bank, which would be supported by all member countries on an equitable financial basis. As Prime Minister Diefenbaker said on September 26: 'A few countries cannot underwrite the costs of transferring their surpluses to countries in need. What we need is to join together in contributing to a solution of truly world-wide scope to this problem.' Canada would of course expect that any food bank that may be established as a result of the FAO's study would be both realistic and workable. We fully agreed with the distinguished representative of Argentina when, on October 18, he said that any international arrangements established for the disposal of surplus agricultural commodities must avoid damage to legitimate and normal commercial trade. Our own trade has in the past been disrupted by erratic surplus disposal arrangements and we would certainly have no intention of ourselves supporting action which would have this effect. The Delegate of Argentina is correct in saying that the conception of a world food reserve has been studied in FAO and considered at various times in the past. But times are changing, and my Delegation is convinced that a fresh look at this problem, in an atmosphere of goodwill and sympathy for the world's suffering people, could this time produce concrete results.

"...I now propose to comment briefly on the text of the resolution itself and to refer to some of the comments other delegations have been good enough to make both in the

Committee and outside it on this subject. The statement which I have made in the first part of my intervention governs of course everything that I will be saying in this second part.

"In the first place, may I say how much my Delegation appreciates the spirit in which this resolution has been received. We believe that there is now a general appreciation of its purposes.

"There is one specific aspect of the resolution's preamble I would like to emphasize. This is the close relation between shortages of foodstuffs and economic development programmes. I make these comments on the basis of Canada's experience with such problems under the Colombo Plan. On many occasions in the last ten years, governments in South and Southeast Asia have been obliged to curtail and in some instances even stop major projects in their economic development programmes because of a lack of foreign exchange and even of domestic financial resources. One of the main causes for some of these sudden changes of plan has been the unexpected foreign-exchange expenditures that governments in the area have had to make for the purchase of foodstuffs in order to avoid serious famine conditions. Much work has, of course, already been done, under bilateral programmes and under the various multilateral programmes, to alleviate and to assist in preventing recurring crises of these kinds.

"Turning now to the operative paragraphs, I hope there will be unanimous support of the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign launched by the FAO. Similarly, I assume that an appeal of the kind contained in operative paragraph 2 is one that should receive broad support....

"Paragraph 5 is the first of the two main operative paragraphs of the resolution. The observations which follow represent the Canadian interpretation of the purposes and objectives which these paragraphs are designed to reflect.

#### ROLE OF FAO

"In the first place, as the distinguished representative of FAO has already told us, any action by the FAO that would involve the expenditure of substantial funds would have to be the subject of detailed decisions by the appropriate organs of the FAO. This Assembly may, as indeed we have already done in this Committee, question the representative of FAO about FAO's procedures and practices but we should, I think, keep in mind that these procedures and practices are not subject to control by this Assembly. However, it seems clear that, without in any way prejudging what the properly-constituted authorities of the FAO may decide, the FAO could take some early action designed to carry out the objectives of this resolution.

"The passage at the end of operative paragraph 5, which, I might say, applies equally to operative paragraph 6 and refers to the FAO