

9. Other Developments

A notable development was the request of the USSR to attend the 94th Council Session as an observer. Although it had participated in the founding of the FAO, the USSR had never taken up its membership in the Organization. The unprecedented request to attend a Council session was welcomed by Council members, and led to expressions of hope that the USSR would soon exercise its right of membership.

10. Canadian Liaison with FAO

The Canadian Interdepartmental FAO Committee, under the Chairmanship of the Multilateral Affairs Division, International Programs Branch of Agriculture Canada, enjoyed the active participation of CIDA, Environment, External Affairs, Finance, Fisheries and Oceans, Health and Welfare, Industry, Science and Technology, Statistics Canada, Public Service Commission and the Canadian Commercial Corporation. The Committee was responsible for coordinating preparatory work for Canadian delegations attending major FAO meetings and following up resolutions and decisions. The Chairman ensured that timely and complete replies were prepared to all FAO correspondence, including requests for statistics.

Canada's Permanent Representative to the FAO, based in Rome, ensured the day-to-day liaison between Canada and the Secretariat and other foreign representatives. During the period under review, Mr. Earl Weybrecht replaced Mr. George Musgrove as Canada's Permanent Representative. Mr. Weybrecht was nominated by the Secretary of State for External Affairs and presented his letter of nomination to the Director General in August, 1988.

Further information on matters related to FAO can be obtained from the Chairman of the Canadian Interdepartmental FAO Committee, at 993-6671.