

bably other functions might fall within the range of activities of an organization which first hold a watching brief on the world situation; second, collate information, and third, facilitate action whenever desirable and feasible." . . .

The Delegate for India participating in the same discussion said that help in time of need was welcome but that it was "equally the responsibility of the surplus countries to take preventive action to avoid conditions of scarcity." He advocated an experiment in the form of a World Food Bank, working out a practical scheme of holding food deposits at places where they could produce immediate results.

The Conference noted these suggestions but did not propose any follow-up.

Agricultural Stabilization and Price Support Measures

The Conference emphasized the need for adjusting national agricultural policies in such a way as to promote a better balance between supply and demand in the international markets. In his address, Mr. Harkness dealt with this issue:

"Consideration must also be given to those conditions which give rise to surpluses. Governments should look at their national policies to determine to what extent they may have contributed to the present surplus position. In our own countries we are all committed to protecting and supporting the incomes of farm communities and these policies have, in some cases, led to excessive protectionism. Canada has on occasion found it necessary to adopt some measures to assist her agricultural industries, but efforts have been made to avoid unreasonable and excessive protectionist policy. We have attempted to be flexible, and where and when the method of support has led to the development of surpluses we have modified our programme, for example, on skim-milk powder, eggs and hogs.

"We are impressed with the report of the Expert Panel on Agricultural Price Stabilization and Support Policies, which was established at the request of the ninth session of the Conference. We hope that this Conference will be able to give the report the full attention it merits. The recommendations concerning non-price measures and self-help action by farmers appealed to us particularly, but we would also like to see careful consideration given to the section on price support levels, particularly the question of limiting the spread between domestic support prices and international prices. I hope that at this Conference we can arrive at a considerable measure of unanimity of opinion on the action underlying the use of support measures and that these actions would result in a minimum of injury to producers in other countries. I know that we cannot run until we have learned to walk, but there are many countries that can now afford to modify their support programme in such a way as not to harm their farmers and at the same time offer greater opportunities to increase international trade." . . .

The Conference devoted much attention to the report of the Expert Panel on Agricultural Price Stabilization and Support Policies chaired by a Canadian. The report sets out guiding principles to be taken into account by governments