

"We have consistently urged that the programme must be multilateral in character, that it must not impede the development of local production in recipient countries and that there must be adequate provision for safeguarding commercial markets. All this has been written into the fundamental charter of the World Food Programme. Indeed, one of the great strengths of the Programme is that it will provide food to those who need it and can use it, but at the same time will safeguard the vital interests of commercial exporters, who trade to live. The United Nations and the FAO have fully recognized that one cannot... 'rob Peter to pay Paul'.

TEST OF CONCERTED ACTION

"Before I turn to the draft resolution before us, I should like to emphasize one further point. In this Committee, and in the Economic and Social Council, we spend a great deal of time debating questions of co-ordination. In the World Food Programme, the two major Agencies concerned with the elimination of hunger and with basic economic development - the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization - are equal partners administering this new experiment in international assistance, each selecting ten of the 20 members of the Intergovernmental Committee. The launching of this new co-ordinated Programme represents a challenge to the United Nations system, for, as the Secretary-General pointed out on September 5 at the pledging conference, it illustrates the possibilities of combined the concerted action within this United Nations family of organizations. The success of this co-ordinated approach is important to the future of the whole United Nations system.

"The draft resolution before us refers to the United Nations 'Development Decade' and, in particular, to the need to eliminate illiteracy, hunger and disease. It cannot, of course, be expected that the World Food Programme, with its modest resources, can immediately eliminate hunger and malnutrition from the world. It is, after all, an experimental programme. It can, however, as I have already indicated, help to alleviate suffering in emergencies and assist in economic and social development. We should hope that, through what it may achieve during the next three years, it will make an important contribution to the success of the 'Development Decade'.

"The operative part of this resolution expresses satisfaction at the establishment of the World Food Programme and notes with appreciation that 39 countries have pledged more than \$33.7 million to the Programme. Since the target is \$100 million, Paragraph 3 invites other states members to give further consideration to making pledges so that the target may be reached. My Delegation would most strongly urge that there be a favourable response to this appeal. Finally, the resolution urges all member countries to support the

World Food Programme in order that it may fulfill its objectives.

"With reference to operative Paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, it is essential that the World Food Programme be provided with more resources in the form of cash. We would urge all countries to consider, as a matter of urgency, making at least one-third of their contributions in the form of cash.

PEACE WEAPON

"A few minutes ago, I described the World Food Programme as another weapon for the United Nations in its war on want. I deliberately used the language of war... This organization is nothing if not a peace-keeping organization. It fights the peace on many fronts - the political, the legal, the social and, of course, the economic. In establishing the World Food Programme, it is our hope that the United Nations has been given new resources to wage its continuing war on poverty and misery.

"Let us be under no illusions about the size of the task before us or the size of the resources at our disposal. The task is enormous; the resources of the World Food Programme, both in money and time, are strictly limited. This is an experimental programme limited to a three-year period and confined to attacking problems of hunger in three clearly-defined areas. The resources of the Programme are as limited as its scope and the time at its disposal. The target which we established at the sixteenth session for the entire three-year period of the Programme's operations was \$100 million. The fact that we have already witnessed the pledging of nearly \$90 million in commodities, services and cash is enormously heartening, but even the most optimistic among us know that, in three years and with \$100 million at our disposal, we cannot eliminate the scourge of hunger. In practical terms, we can only hope to alleviate its most serious forms and to moderate its most wasteful after effects.

STERN PRACTICALITY

"This is a sternly practical view... The World Food Programme is a sternly practical programme. By its very pragmatism we think it will succeed in its objectives where earlier and more far-reaching schemes never got off the drawing-board.

"...For all the reasons I have mentioned, the co-sponsors are asking the General Assembly in this resolution to express its satisfaction that the World Food Programme has been established and to urge those member states which have not already done so to consider the possibility of making a pledge to the Programme.

"It is our hope that the World Food Programme will play its part in solving the riddle of a world where, even in the midst of the technological revolution of the twentieth century, hunger continues to exist side by side with plenty. We hope that the resolution before us will be adopted without protracted debate and with unanimous support..."