

It was understandable that many delegates to that conference from developing countries were preoccupied with the urgent short-term problems arising from a rapidly deteriorating world food situation. This made it difficult to place proper emphasis on the resolution of longer-term food problems and of increased agricultural production -- especially in developing countries -- which represented a major objective of that conference.

Nevertheless the conference did achieve agreement on a number of important institutional issues.

1. The establishment of a World Food Council.
2. The establishment of the FAO Committee on world food security.
3. The setting up of a committee on food aid policies and programmes.
4. The creation of a global information and early warning system.
5. The establishment of a consultative group on food production and investment of the IBRD, FAO, and UNDP, and
6. The creation of the framework for an international fund for agricultural development.

Discussions are presently taking place or are scheduled in the very near future to advance each of these matters. In keeping with Canada's role at the conference, we intend to take part in these discussions in the spirit that was developed at the Rome conference. In the three months or more since the conference, we, in Canada, have been occupied translating our pledges into realities.

We did pledge one million metric tons of food grain annually for each of the next three years to help overcome the short-term food shortages. Plans are nearly completed for the allocation of this grain to bilateral recipients and multilateral organizations. In keeping with our pledge to channel at least twenty percent of our food aid through multilateral agencies a significant portion of the one million tons will be made available to the World Food Programme.