nutrition to health, agriculture and economic problems. The Mixed Committee's final report in 1937 to the Assembly of the League presented evidence of the extent of malnutrition in the world, pointed out its relation to poverty and ignorance and the effect of improved nutrition on health and on agriculture. It recommended that governments should establish national nutrition committees to make proposals for putting into effect the "integrated approach" to human welfare. Some 25 governments did establish such committees in 1937 and 1938.

During the war years research continued. Countries which were threatened with the cutting off of food supplies were compelled to take vigorous measures to make full use of existing supplies. For the first time the nutritional needs of the people were estimated in terms of nutrients. Special allowances were made for heavy workers and for vulnerable groups. These requirements were then converted into terms of actual foodstuffs, and the available food supplies were rationed to consumers accordingly. The remarkable result was that in some countries (England, for instance) the general level of health actually improved under war conditions. The interesting lesson of this result is that it was achieved under strict rationing which resulted in a diet of Spartan simplicity. Meals might be monotonous and at times even unpalatable but because the diet was planned to include the essential nutrients, because, for instance, the flour was reinforced and substitutes were found to supply the vitamins normally obtained in such items as oranges, health and working efficiency were maintained. In other countries a blight was put to the widespread starvation which would have been inevitable without careful planning.

Now that the war is over the United Nations have resolved to continue the work on a world scale, and to this end have planned the Food and Agriculture Organization for the purpose of raising nutritional levels throughout the world and increasing agricultural production to meet them.

Origin of FAO

In May, 1943, 44 United and Associated Nations were invited by the President of the United States to send representatives to a conference on food and agriculture at Hot Springs, Virginia. The conference lasted from May 18 to June 3. Among the delegates were some of the best known world authorities on agriculture, food and nutrition.

Their early talks resulted in clear agreement on such points as these:

There has never been enough food for the health of all people. At least two-thirds of the world's people are ill-nourished and many face periodic starvation.

The modern science of nutrition proves that if all people could get enough of the right kinds of food the average level of health and well-being could be raised.

The mere knowledge of agriculture shows how to produce enough of the right kinds of foods. To do it, farmers everywhere must have the opportunity of using modern production methods.

Production in itself is not enough. Foods must be so distributed that the levels of consumption of those who have not enough are progressively raised.

This implies an expanding world economy, in which each nation will be responsible for its own progress but all will see together. Only by co-operation can nations achieve peace, prosperity and rising standards of living.

The delegates made recommendations with respects to dietary standards, agricultural production, marketing, distribution and other measures relevant attaining their goal of freedom from want. Some continued into their