



CANADA

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## WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME - PROOF OF UN VITALITY

The following statement was made on November 29 to the Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly by the Canadian representative, Senator F.M. Blois:

"...The World Food Programme will become fully operational on January 1, 1963, little more than one month from today. Yet...it was only at the fifteenth session of the Assembly that we began the debates which brought this programme into being. Here, surely, is clear evidence of what the Secretary-General has called the continued vitality of the United Nations system and its capacity to deal with changing situations.

"The very basis of the World Food Programme is the provision of assistance by means of foodstuffs in three major fields:

- (a) meeting emergency food needs and emergencies arising from chronic malnutrition;
- (b) assistance in pre-school and school feeding; and
- (c) implementing pilot projects using food as an aid to economic and social development, particularly when related to labour intensive projects and rural welfare.

"Since the adoption by the General Assembly in 1960 of Resolution 1496 (XV), which authorized the initial studies, events have moved swiftly. An intergovernmental committee of 20 countries has been established, has adopted rules of procedure and tentative budget estimates, and has

prepared a work programme. An executive director, Dr. Boerma, has been appointed, and a pledging conference has been held at which approximately \$88 million was pledged. In short, what was only an idea two years ago is now an accomplished fact and a new and vital organization within the United Nations family is ready to play its part towards achievement of the aims of the United Nations 'Development Decade'.

### CANADA'S ROLE

"Canada has from the beginning taken an active part in the preparations leading to the establishment of the World Food Programme, beginning with the proposal made by the Canadian Prime Minister...in his statement to the General Assembly on September 26, 1960. Canada's position with regard to the World Food Programme was outlined by the Minister of Agriculture...at the FAO conference in November 1961, in the following words:

'In our view, the concept of a world food bank must be based on the need of people for food - not on the need of countries to dispose of surpluses. What we envisage is that the more fortunate members of the United Nations family, most of whom have a substantial potential for food production, should jointly make some of their resources in this field available to assist the less fortunate'.

(Over)