

past been disrupted by erratic surplus disposal arrangements and we would certainly have no intention of ourselves supporting action which would have this effect. The Delegate of Argentina is correct in saying that the conception of a world food reserve has been studied in FAO and considered at various times in the past. But times are changing, and my Delegation is convinced that a fresh look at this problem, in an atmosphere of goodwill and sympathy for the world's suffering people, could this time produce concrete results.

The problem is admittedly complex, but in our view its solution is of the greatest urgency, for every day the numbers of hungry people increase. Let our goal be the abolition of hunger in a world where hunger should no longer exist and let us now join together in taking a great and decisive step forward.

...I now propose to comment briefly on the text of the resolution itself and to refer to some of the comments other delegations have been good enough to make both in the Committee and outside it on this subject. The statement which I have made in the first part of my intervention governs of course everything that I will be saying in this second part.

In the first place, may I say how much my Delegation appreciates the spirit in which this resolution has been received. We believe that there is now a general appreciation of its purposes.

Effect of Food Shortages

There is one specific aspect of the resolution's preamble which I would like to emphasize. This is the close relationship between shortages of foodstuffs and economic development programmes. I make these comments on the basis of Canada's experience with such problems under the Colombo Plan. On many occasions in the last ten years, governments in South and Southeast Asia have been obliged to curtail and in some instances even stop major projects in their economic development programmes because of a lack of foreign exchange and even of domestic financial resources. One of the main causes for some of these sudden changes of plan has been the unexpected foreign exchange expenditures that governments in the area have had to make for the purchase of foodstuffs in order to avoid serious famine conditions. Much work has, of course, already been done under bilateral programmes and under the various multilateral programmes to alleviate and to assist in preventing recurring crises of these kinds.

Turning now to the operative paragraphs, I hope there will be unanimous support of the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign launched by the FAO. Similarly, I assume that an appeal of the kind contained in operative paragraph 2 is one which should receive broad support. Operative paragraphs 3 and 4 do not seem to call for specific comment at this stage.