



*Mr. Douglas S. Harkness, Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Canadian Delegate to the Tenth FAO Conference in Rome, is shown addressing a session of the Conference.*

of Latin America and Africa, the increase in production had recently fallen behind or was barely keeping pace with the accelerating growth of population.

A high rate of population-increase was bound to continue for many years, and the Conference stressed that there could be no slackening in efforts to remove the barriers to the fuller application of existing technical knowledge in the less-developed countries and to improve their purchasing power so that they could increasingly use the abundant production of more-advanced countries for the better nutrition of their populations. The immediate problem of providing enough food was immense and challenging. Its solution could not safely be delayed much longer, and should not be jeopardized by inadequately-based hopes or fears about the more remote future.

#### **The Commodity Situation**

The Conference, in its review of the world agricultural-commodity marketing situation and problems, outlined the following salient features:

- (1) the persistence of surpluses of some major staple commodities (wheat is of special interest to Canada) and sudden changes in the supply situation of some others (e.g. skim-milk powder);
- (2) the unfavourable trends in the terms of trade of agricultural exporting countries;