

reason, are at so great a disadvantage in the economic system that they cannot obtain the means for reasonable nutrition. Finally, research, which has already accomplished so much, must be stimulated and made even more responsive to the need of discovering ways of reconciling the changing numbers of the world's peoples and the quantity of things produced and distributed to meet their requirements.

15. Scientific developments have shortened the distances between countries until all are now near neighbours. Thus the discontent or the overweening ambition of one profoundly affects all others, strife at one place can quickly become world-wide, and cooperation is thrust upon us if the world is to avoid being brought ultimately to the verge of ruin.

16. But these same scientific developments will enable us to achieve many things through cooperation that were thought impossible before, and among them is freedom from want of food. No nation can hope to achieve this by depending solely on its own effort, for none can any longer insulate itself from the disastrous effects of things that may be done by other nations. But in a world in which distance has shrunk and the pace of events has quickened, each nation can reinforce what others do far more readily and effectively than in the past. The possibilities for good have increased as greatly as the possibilities for evil. We can now reasonably expect to solve the problem of freedom from want if all will act together.

17. Progress will necessarily be gradual. Men do not readily adjust traditional ways to new conditions, and there are many obstacles to be overcome. But a start can be made at once. Changes in the economic and social arrangements of nations will be needed. The redirection would not be wholly new; it is in line with an evolution that has been hastened in our time.

III. THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

A. PURPOSES AND FUNCTIONS

18. In pursuance of paragraphs 4(a), 5, 6, and 7 of the Resolution quoted in paragraph 1 of this Report, the Interim Commission recommends for the approval of its constituent Governments the Constitution (Appendix I) of a permanent organization for food and agriculture, hereinafter referred to as the "Organization".

19. The remainder of this section of this Report is devoted to an exposition, supplementing the Constitution, of the purposes and functions of the permanent Organization as the Commission has envisaged them, and of its structure and organization, its methods of working, its relationship with other organizations, national and international, and the need for its early establishment. References at the ends of paragraphs are to the corresponding Articles of the Constitution.

20. Throughout this Report references to the purposes, functions, duties, and powers of the Organization are to be interpreted as extending to fisheries, marine products, forestry, primary forestry products, and fibres and other non-food agricultural products. [Art. XVI.]

21. The purpose of the Organization as set forth in the Preamble to the Constitution is to promote the common welfare by furthering separate and collective action by the Member nations to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, to secure improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products, to better the condition of rural populations, and thus to contribute toward an expanding world economy.