

"He went on to say:

"We envisage a food bank to provide food to member states through the United Nations'.

"...In the whole field of Canada's relations with the outside world, there is no more important question than that of our participation in programmes of assistance to those nations that have come to be called 'developing' countries.

"Since the end of the last war, Canada has been extending help in various forms to those countries which were in need of assistance which Canada was able to give. Canadian bilateral overseas aid, e.g. the Colombo Plan, is directed to less-developed countries. At the same time Canada has contributed through multilateral institutions, primarily under the auspices of the United Nations. Our experience over the past 15 years has made us very much aware of the need constantly to seek ways of improving and making our aid efforts more effective.

"It is not my intention here to review in detail Canada's programme of economic assistance. I have introduced these few remarks to indicate that the Canadian Government regularly reviews the adequacy of its programmes and makes provision for increases whenever national circumstances permit.

"...I also want to assure you and the honourable delegates that Canada's support of the World Food Programme will not be at the expense of our other assistance activities. We look upon the World Food Programme as another step forward in helping to raise the levels of living of our friends in the developing countries.

THE CANADIAN POSITION

"...I think it would be useful if I again briefly stated Canada's position in respect to the World Food Programme. I can do this best by repeating what I said at the FAO Conference last November. At that time I said:

"Nothing is further from our minds than that we should expect other countries to contribute financially to a programme to help us out of any surplus difficulties we may experience.

"In our view the conception 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 UN 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.

"That this is our conception is, I think, clear from our support of the proposition that contributions by participating countries should be partly in cash. Canada is prepared to make at least one-third of its contribution available in cash and if food is required of a type, which is not produced in Canada, we are quite prepared to see a portion of our cash contribution devoted to the procurement of that food elsewhere'.

"Furthermore...we look upon the World Food Programme as a multilateral effort. This, to us, is both significant and important. It is one of the key-stones of this new programme. We, however, hold the

view that at the outset the Programme should not try to encompass operations which desirably should remain on a bilateral basis. This point is emphasized in the UN resolution. We, of course, expect that a multilateral World Food Programme will operate in harmony with the various bilateral programmes and the UN assistance activities.

"The programme to which we are now subscribing contains safeguards against interference with bilateral operations. It is also important that it does not impede the development of local production in a recipient country. We are also pleased to note that provision is made for safeguarding commercial markets as well as normal commercial practices in respect to acceptable services.

NO SURPLUS DISPOSAL

"...I should again like to emphasize that we do not regard the World Food Programme as a surplus disposal agency. We trust that the Executive Director and all of us who are involved with this Programme will think in terms of food use and food assistance.

"While Canada, as well as other countries, has favoured a modest start, we do not under-estimate the size of the task before us. FAO experts have estimated that between 1/3 and 1/2 of the world's population suffer from malnutrition and/or undernourishment. The Director-General of the FAO has on several occasions stated that between 300 and 500 million people go hungry for part of their lives even in normal times.

"The contrasting situation of abundance and shortages that we have with us now will continue for some time to come. The FAO in a recent study projected that, while production and surpluses may increase, malnutrition will remain widespread in many low-income countries during the 1960's. FAO projects that if agricultural production in the low-income countries did not increase any faster in the '60's than it did in the '50's, hunger would still be a major world problem in 1970.

PRIORITIES ESSENTIAL

"...It is obvious that, when we operate with limited resources, we must make choices. We must establish priorities. My Government has from the very beginning favored the types of assistance now written into the basic constitution of the WFP. These are aid for:

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

"My Delegation gives very high priority to emergency food needs. Our Delegation, like others, has been shocked by the devastation in Iran due to earthquakes. This is an emergency of the highest order. Had our Programme already been operating, our Executive Director would have been in action drawing from his pool of foodstuffs and by now he would have had aid on the way. This does not mean that aid will not be forthcoming. I understand that help is already

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