



# Bulletin

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## FAO ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED

The Canada Department of Agriculture was host on October 16 at a celebration marking the silver anniversary of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on October 16, 1945, at Quebec City.

A scroll marking the occasion was presented to Mr. A.H. Boerma, Director-General of the FAO. Agriculture Minister H.A. (Bud) Olson was chairman and one of the keynote speakers. Mr. Boerma also spoke.

The following passages are from Mr. Olson's speech:

...When I began to prepare my comments, I looked at the FAO reports giving the statistics of successes and near failures. My first reaction was similar to that of the man who said: "By the time I get to where it's at, it's always where it was". On balance, I am impressed with the progress that has been made in spite of the difficulties that could not have been visualized by the founders of the FAO. In 1945 there were 2.3 billion people on this earth and today there are 3.6 billion. Politically, half a dozen countries made all the major world decisions in 1945. Today, more than 130 nations are operating as sovereign nations. The great majority are economically underdeveloped. They are becoming more and more impa-

tient with their slow progress towards higher standards of living.

In 1945, there were no space-ships. Man's walking on the moon was still a wild dream. The "green revolution" was not even thought of. Pollution was not a dirty word. However, the word famine struck fear in the hearts of many. Today we are on the verge of a major agricultural production breakthrough in the developing countries; we are beginning to be concerned over the social impact of the "green revolution". In 1945, the FAO was the first of the new UN Specialized Agencies. Today we have many. The idea of bilateral and multilateral aid for economic development was, as we understand it today, unknown 25 years ago. I could recite statistics and give many examples of the progress made, by all countries, in farming, fishing and forestry, and the contribution the FAO made. However, Dr. Boerma has given us an excellent outline of the FAO's role in a changing world. My purpose is to take a look at the next 25 years - what needs to be done? What can the FAO's contribution be?

What makes the FAO so important? The simple fact that nearly 70 per cent of the people in the developing countries depend upon agriculture - that is, farming, fishing and forestry - for their livelihood. Too many of these people are still living under sub-standard conditions....

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### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT

During the FAO's first 25 years, the agricultural problems facing developed countries changed from problems of shortages which followed the Second World War to problems of surpluses. As a result, the policies needed to meet these problems have changed from emphasis on technical considerations to concentration on *adjustment* programs. If the potential outlined by the Indicative World Plan for increased production in developing countries is realized, it is probable that in the next 25 years their problems will slowly undergo the same changes that have occurred