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Joe Clark, P.C., M.P.
Minister for External Affairs



Canada

Le très hon. Joe Clark, C.P., député
Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures

OTTAWA, ONTARIO
K1A 0G2

October 6, 1989

Dear Mr. Marleau,

I enclose two copies of the "Report on Canada's Activities as a Member Nation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the period April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989" to be tabled pursuant to Article 3 of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN Act, 1945. I would be grateful if the Report might be tabled in the House.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Robert Marleau
Clerk of the House of Commons
Room 228 North
Parliament Buildings
Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario

Dept. of External Affairs
Min. des Affaires extérieures

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H. Rt. P. Joe Clark, P. C., M. P.
Secretary of State for External Affairs



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Dept. of External Affairs
Min. des Affaires extérieures

Mr. Robert Marleau
Clerk of the House of Commons
Room 228 North
Parliament Buildings
Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario

OCT 25 1989

RETURN TO RESEARCHER ORIGIN
RETOURNER A LA SOURCE D'OU L'INFORMATION

16 233 8919(E)

The Rt. Hon. Joe Clark, P.C., M.P.
Secretary of State for External Affairs



Canada

Le très hon. Joe Clark, C.P., député
Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures

OTTAWA, ONTARIO
K1A 0G2

October 6, 1989

Dear Mr. Barnhart,

I enclose two copies of the "Report on Canada's Activities as a Member Nation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the period April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989" to be tabled pursuant to Article 3 of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN Act, 1945. I would be grateful if the Report might be tabled in the Senate.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Clark".

Mr. Gordon Barnhart
Clerk of the Senate
Room 289 South
Parliament Buildings
Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario

REPORT TO PARLIAMENT
ON CANADA'S ACTIVITIES AS A MEMBER NATION
OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)
OF THE UNITED NATIONS (UN) FOR THE PERIOD
APRIL 1, 1988 TO MARCH 31, 1989

1. Introduction

In accordance with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Act of 1945, this report places before Parliament a summary of the main activities undertaken by the Canadian Government during 1988-89.

2. Financial Contribution by Canada and General Financial Situation

The FAO Conference fixed Canada's assessment for 1989 at US\$8,810,744, or 3.6% of the Regular Budget, making Canada the 7th largest contributor. Canada promptly paid its full 1989 assessment, thus easing somewhat the difficult financial situation faced by the FAO. At the end of the period under review, 110 members (of 158) have not paid their assessments for 1989, and 65 owed funds from previous years. The largest amount outstanding was owed by the United States (US\$143.5 million).

3. Reform and Renewal

A recurring issue of the debates within the Organization during 1988-89 was "reform". In the most sweeping review in FAO's history, the 1987 Conference charged the Programme and Finance Committees with jointly re-examining all FAO programmes and formulating recommendations. To assist them in their task, two groups of independent experts were set up by the Committees to study (a) the FAO's Objectives, Role, Priorities and Strategies and (b) Field Operations. In addition, a number of consultants' studies were commissioned dealing with such matters as personnel, finances and common services. The objective was to verify that the Organization is responsive to changing circumstances and the needs of its membership. The experts' and consultants' reports were tendered in early 1989, are now being considered, and will be debated at the 25th General Conference in November 1989.

Major themes which have emerged are sustainable development, a policy advice role for FAO in assisting developing countries with structural adjustment in the agriculture sector, and greater focus in governing bodies on field operations. In line with the reform objective of a greater voice for Member States in the decision-making and

priority-setting within the Organization, the Committees also decided to examine an outline of the proposed Programme of Work and Budget before the Director General finalized his proposals. This meeting took place in early 1989.

As a reform-minded member of the Programme Committee, Canada was well placed to articulate its expectations, to ensure that all aspects of the review were thoroughly and impartially carried out, and to shape the final recommendations. Canada's wishes in terms of reform were again drawn to the Director General's attention, in particular (a) improved financial management, increased transparency and accountability in the budgetary process; (b) improved priority-setting processes; and (c) strengthened management systems for field programme delivery, evaluation and personnel.

4. Agriculture

The FAO carried out its programme of technical assistance; collected, analysed and disseminated information; advised governments on policy and planning; and continued serving as a global forum for governments to meet and discuss food and agricultural problems and their potential solutions.

Activities of special interest to Canada included:

- (a) Global efforts to improve pesticide regulations through the FAO Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. In accordance with Resolution 5/87 of the 24th Conference, an expert consultation held in Rome in April 1988 examined the means for incorporating the Principle of Prior Informed Consent (PIC) into the FAO Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. Canada supports the concept of enhanced information exchange procedures, such as PIC, to make member Nations aware of pesticide control actions which will allow informed national decisions with regard to the national protection of health and safety.

Pesticides will be lumped with chemicals under the new Canadian Environmental Protection Act (1988) which provides legislation to implement PIC, until such time as pesticides-specific legislation can be promulgated under the Pest Control Product Act. This is unlikely to occur before 1991 as Canada will be embarked on a major

review of pesticide registration which will take at least 12 months to complete.

- (b) FAO's evolving role in the conservation of plant genetic resources due to the consolidation of its global framework comprising:
 - (i) the International Undertaking, a legal framework to ensure the conservation, use and availability of these resources;
 - (ii) the Commission, a unique intergovernmental forum, where countries which were donors or users of germ-plasm, funds and technology, could seek consensus on subjects of global interest; and
 - (iii) the International Fund, a financial mechanism which would permit the implementation of the principles of the International Undertaking, to the equitable benefit of both the countries which contributed germ-plasm, and those which contributed funds and technology.

Canada has not adhered to the Undertaking, nor joined the Commission, nor contributed to the Fund, and has communicated its concerns over specific provisions formally to FAO, noting our willingness to reassess our position in light of any new developments.

- (c) Ongoing work of the joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme (Codex Alimentarius) which develops worldwide quality control and standards for food products to facilitate trade and to protect the health of consumers. Particularly important to Canada is the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in prevention and elimination of non-tariff trade barriers by the development and adoption of international food standards, codes of practice, residue limits, etc. Currently, over 230 food product standards have been determined, 40 codes of practice and guidelines have been developed and adopted, over 2000 pesticide residue limits for over 100 major pesticides have been adopted and maximum levels for over 400 food additives established.

- (d) The International Conference on the Acceptance, Control of, and Trade in Irradiated Food co-sponsored by the FAO/WHO/IAEA/ITC-UNCTAD/GATT¹ held in Geneva, December 12-16, 1988. The Conference was attended by some 220 participants representing 57 countries. This conference is considered important to Canada in view of Canadian expertise and leading role in food irradiation.
- (e) The joint FAO/IAEA Division involving nuclear techniques applied to plant breeding and genetics, animal production and health, soil fertility and crop production, insect and pest control and food preservation.
- (f) Monitoring of world commodity and trade developments through information networks such as FAO's Early Warning System, State of Food and Agriculture reports, Commodity Review and Outlook reports and Trade/Production Yearbooks.
- (g) Participation in intergovernmental groups (IGGs) on agricultural commodities to bring greater stability to world trade and to defend Canadian interests.
- (h) FAO's central role in locust control in Africa.

5. Forestry

The 9th Session of the Committee on Forestry confirmed its full support to the FAO's Tropical Forest Action Plan as a framework for the coordination of national and international action in forest development and conservation. In recognition of the increasing threat to tropical forests, there was a general consensus that forestry's share of the overall FAO programme should increase. The Committee also recommended that the contribution of wildlife to food security be recognized and that wildlife management and utilization be incorporated into national development plans. The importance of forest-based small-scale industries to rural development and the importance of proper forest harvesting were also underlined. Canada succeeded together with a number of other members in giving to the forestry program a somewhat higher profile through reallocation of funds.

¹ Food and Agriculture Organization/International Atomic Energy Agency/World Health Organization/International Trade Centre-United Nations Conference on Trade and Development/General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

6. Fisheries

In the area of fisheries, the Committee on Fisheries Sub-Committee on Fish Trade held its 2nd Session. Canada was elected one of the Vice-Chairmen. The Sub-Committee urged the continuation of activities to assist developing countries in fish export trade, and to promote value-added product development and locating new opportunities for export of fish products. Regional services to provide technical assistance were endorsed as being the most cost effective and the appropriate level at which to implement programmes. The Sub-Committee recommended to the Committee on Fisheries that it become an eligible International Commodity Body under the new United Nations Common Fund for Commodities.

7. Field Programmes and World Food Security

The 13th Session of the Committee on World Food Security met at a time when, for the first time in four years, world consumption of staple cereals exceeded production. Although 1988 production had been expected to increase, it would again be less than consumption further reducing stocks. This, combined with declining production in developing countries and their low foreign exchange resources, resulted in increased food aid needs. The committee urged that the highest priority be accorded to the development of the food and agriculture sector, particularly; the need to apply technological improvements to increase productivity; price incentives, extension and training; strengthening co-operatives and credit facilities; support to women farmers; and improved marketing institutions.

The major emphasis of the Committee in 1989/90 will be the effects of structural adjustment programmes on food security. It will also review India's experience with policies and programmes to achieve food security and examine FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS).

8. Personnel

There are currently 48 Canadians serving in the FAO Secretariat in professional level positions. Another 28 work on field projects. Efforts are underway to increase the number of Canadians and an FAO recruitment mission is planned for the fall of 1989. The Public Service Commission will assist the mission in arranging interviews. During the period under review, a Canadian, Mr. Z. Kalensky, was promoted to be Chief of the Remote Sensing Division.

9. Other Developments

A notable development was the request of the USSR to attend the 94th Council Session as an observer. Although it had participated in the founding of the FAO, the USSR had never taken up its membership in the Organization. The unprecedented request to attend a Council session was welcomed by Council members, and led to expressions of hope that the USSR would soon exercise its right of membership.

10. Canadian Liaison with FAO

The Canadian Interdepartmental FAO Committee, under the Chairmanship of the Multilateral Affairs Division, International Programs Branch of Agriculture Canada, enjoyed the active participation of CIDA, Environment, External Affairs, Finance, Fisheries and Oceans, Health and Welfare, Industry, Science and Technology, Statistics Canada, Public Service Commission and the Canadian Commercial Corporation. The Committee was responsible for coordinating preparatory work for Canadian delegations attending major FAO meetings and following up resolutions and decisions. The Chairman ensured that timely and complete replies were prepared to all FAO correspondence, including requests for statistics.

Canada's Permanent Representative to the FAO, based in Rome, ensured the day-to-day liaison between Canada and the Secretariat and other foreign representatives. During the period under review, Mr. Earl Weybrecht replaced Mr. George Musgrove as Canada's Permanent Representative. Mr. Weybrecht was nominated by the Secretary of State for External Affairs and presented his letter of nomination to the Director General in August, 1988.

Further information on matters related to FAO can be obtained from the Chairman of the Canadian Interdepartmental FAO Committee, at 993-6671.

Table 1 - Canadian Participation in FAO Meetings
(April 1, 1988 - March 31, 1989)

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>
Committee on World Food Security, 13th Session	April 13-19, 1988
Latin American Forestry Commission, 16th Session	April 18-22, 1988
Committee on Forestry, 9th Session	May 9-13, 1988
Programme Committee, 54th Session	May 11-13, 1988
Special Joint Sessions of the Programme and Finance Committees (To discuss the review of FAO's Objectives, Role, Priorities and Strategies and Field Programmes)	May 16-24, 1988 Sept. 22-23, 1988
Committee on Food Aid Policies	May 30-June 6, 1988
Programme Committee 55th Session	Sept. 19-21, 1988
Expert Consultations on Promotion of Livestock Production in Latin America and the Caribbean	Sept. 26-28, 1988
FAO Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean, 1st Session	Sept. 29-30, 1988
Committee on Fisheries, Sub- Committee on Fish Trade, 2nd Session	Oct. 24-28, 1988
FAO Council, 94th Session	Nov. 15-26, 1988

Government Consultation on the
Principle of Prior Informed
Consent (PIC) on the
International Code of Conduct
on the Distribution and Use of
Pesticides

Jan. 10-13, 1989

Special Joint Session of the
Programme and Finance
Committees
(To discuss the outline of
the 1990-91 Programme of Work
and Budget)

Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 1989

Intergovernmental Group (IGG)
on Meat and 2nd Sub-Group on
Hides and Skins, 13th Session

Mar. 13-16, 1989

IGG on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats,
22nd Session

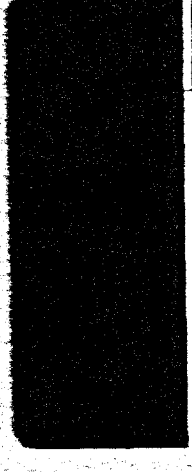
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