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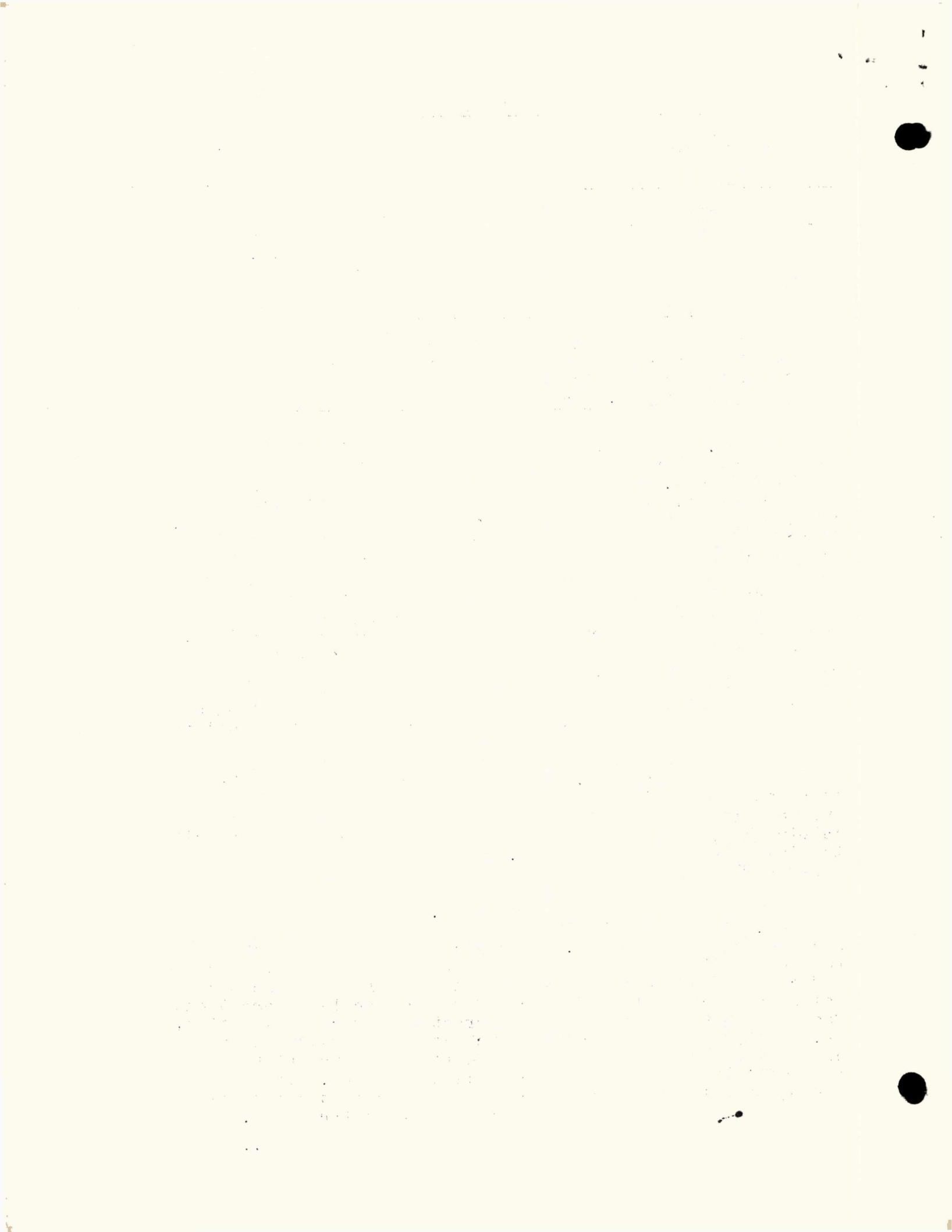
WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME - Item 52

Text of Statement on the World Food Programme
to be Delivered in the Second Committee by the
Canadian Representative, Miss Margaret Meagher,
on Friday, December 10, 1965

Mr. Chairman, it is always encouraging to watch an idea take shape, to see it transformed from the abstract to the concrete. This has been the case with the World Food Programme. Today we have before us a resolution calling for the extension and expansion of the World Food Programme. As you all know it took many years to secure agreement for the establishment of an international agency which would make food aid available for economic and social development and which would have food available on call to meet emergencies. Today the World Food Programme is an operational reality with over a hundred approved projects in operation. Although the critical phase is over, and although those results produced by the experimental period have been sufficiently encouraging to justify the continuation of the Programme, we all realize that only preliminary conclusions can be made in an assessment of the projects so far completed.

The objectives of the World Food Programme are indeed far-reaching, Mr. Chairman. This programme is based on a desire to help meet the food needs of the World's undernourished, as well as to provide intergovernmental machinery to promote economic development directed to raising the level of food consumption. We do not regard the World Food Programme as a surplus disposal agency.

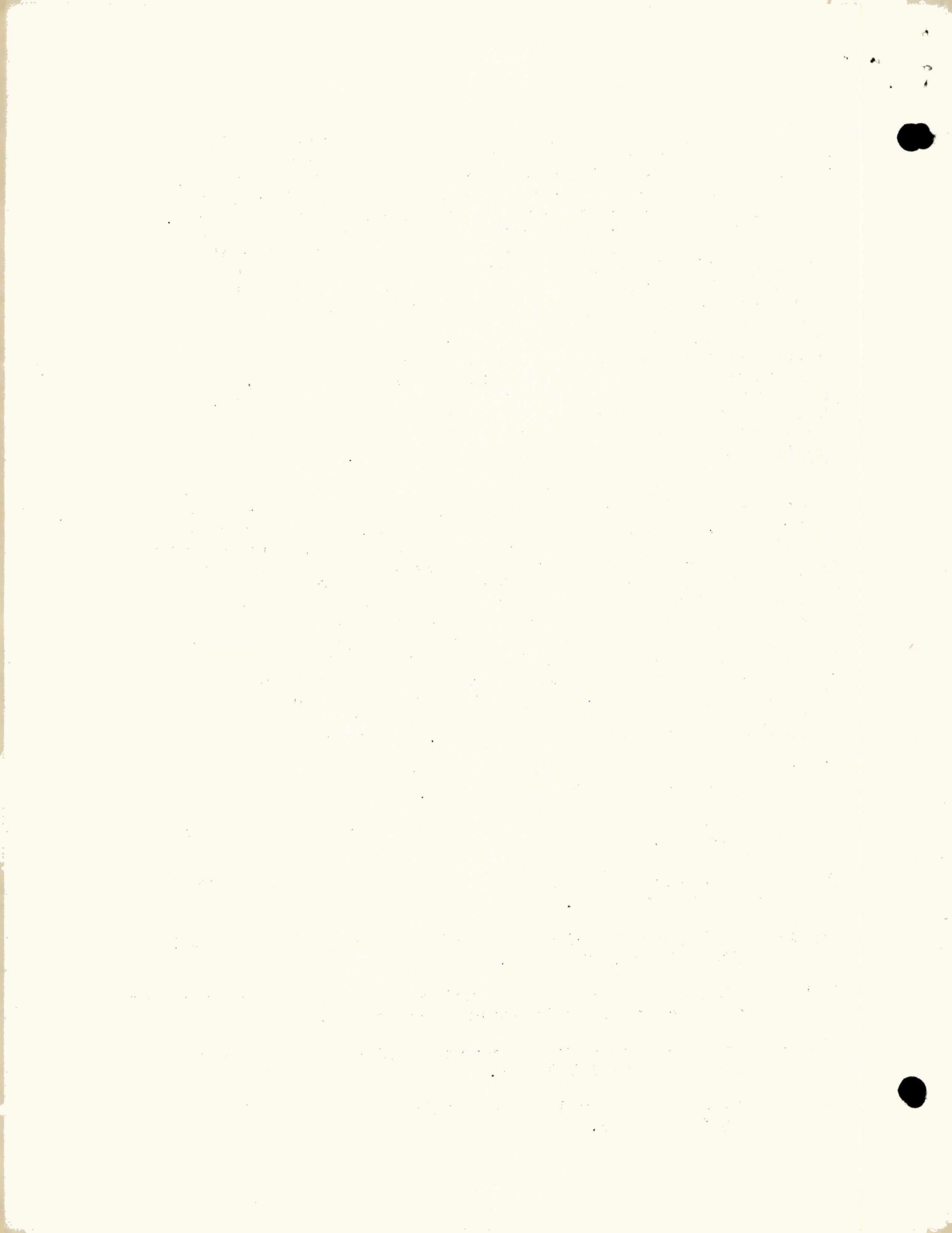
We have before us today, Mr. Chairman, the resolutions. I should like to deal with that contained in document A/C2/L841 first. This document contains a request to the Secretary-General to undertake a series of studies the object of which would be the examination of the means and policies which will be required for large scale international food action of a multilateral character. My own delegation, Mr. Chairman, is in favour of such studies provided they do not duplicate the studies currently being undertaken by the Committee on Commodity Problems in the FAO. In this regard my delegation considers the studies of the financial implications of such action to be of particular value.



The other document which we have before us today (A/C2/L839) contains the text of a resolution recommended to the General Assembly by the Economic and Social Council. This resolution calls for the extension of the mandate of the World Food Programme and the expansion of its resources. It is based on the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee and takes into account the views of the Director General of the FAO and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. These recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee have been endorsed by the Economic and Social Council and by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization. A resolution identical to the one now before us was adopted last week by a unanimous vote of the Conference of the FAO which, with the United Nations, is the joint sponsoring agency of the World Food Programme. My delegation supports the objectives of the resolution contained in document L839 and we hope that it will be adopted unanimously by the General Assembly.

During its first phase the World Food Programme was supported by over seventy countries. This was a most welcome endorsement. In the period ahead, however, we look forward to even wider support and greater participation, particularly by developed countries. As I have said, the Canadian delegation fully supports the expansion of the World Food Programme and we also support the objective of up to one-third of all contributions in cash and services. Our position is, however, based on certain considerations which in our view are implicit in the resolution and in the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee which gave rise to the resolution. Our delegation in Rome enumerated these considerations to the FAO Conference and I would like to repeat them before this committee. They are:

- First: that the programme will continue to have joint sponsorship of FAO and the UN.
- Second: that there will continue to be adequate commercial safeguards.
- Third: that aid will consist of food and foods; and will be limited to them.
- Fourth: that food distribution will normally be distributed free at project sites.
- Fifth: that the programme will not result in the encouragement of uneconomic agricultural production.
- Sixth: that provision for emergency food aid will remain at a substantial level.
- Seventh: that food aid will be maintained on an individual project basis.



If there is substantial acceptance of the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme on which our position is based and depending on the degree of financial support indicated by other member countries, Canada is prepared to provide up to 27.5 million U.S. dollars in commodities and cash for the three year period from 1966 to 1968. This is more than a four-fold increase over our initial contribution to the World Food Programme.

