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STATEMENT BY SENATOR F.M. BLOIS,
CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE ON THE SECOND COMMITTEE,
ON THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME,
NOVEMBER 29, 1962.

Mr. Chairman,

It is both a pleasure and an honour to introduce -- on behalf of the Delegations of Australia, Belgium, Cambodia, Canada, the Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chile, France, Ghana, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Liberia, Mauritania, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan and the United States of America -- the resolution contained in Document A/C.2/L.659. In presenting this resolution, the co-sponsors are not asking the Assembly to take substantive action. Rather we are asking the Assembly to recognize the success of this Committee's efforts over the past two years to provide the United Nations with another weapon in its war on want.

The World Food Programme will become fully operational on January 1, 1963, little more than one month from today. Yet, Mr. Chairman, it was only at the fifteenth session of the Assembly that we began the debates which brought this programme into being. Here, surely, is clear evidence of what the Secretary-General has called the continued vitality of the United Nations system and its capacity to deal with changing situations.

The very basis of the World Food Programme is the provision of assistance by means of foodstuffs in three major fields:

- (a) Meeting emergency food needs and emergencies arising from chronic malnutrition;
- (b) Assistance in pre-school and school feeding; and,
- (c) Implementing pilot projects using food as an aid to economic and social development, particularly when

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related to labour intensive projects and rural welfare.

Since the adoption by the General Assembly in 1960 of Resolution 1496 (XV) which authorized the initial studies, events have moved swiftly. An Intergovernmental Committee of twenty countries has been established, has adopted rules of procedure and tentative budget estimates, and has prepared a work programme. An Executive Director, Dr. Boerma, has been appointed, and a Pledging Conference has been held at which approximately \$88 million was pledged. In short, what was only an idea two years ago is now an accomplished fact and a new and vital organization within the United Nations family is ready to play its part towards achievement of the aims of the United Nations Development Decade.

Canada has from the beginning taken an active part in the preparations leading to the establishment of the World Food Programme, beginning with the proposal made by the Canadian Prime Minister, the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker, in his statement to the General Assembly on September 26, 1960, Canada's position with regard to the World Food Programme was outlined by the Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Alvin Hamilton, at the FAO conference in November, 1961, in the following words:

"In our view, the concept 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 United Nations 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."

We have consistently argued that the programme must be multilateral in character, that it must not impede the development of local production in recipient countries and that there must be adequate provision for safeguarding commercial markets. All this has been written into the fundamental charter of the

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

The history of the United States is a story of growth and change. From the first European settlers to the present day, the nation has evolved through various stages of development. The early years were marked by exploration and the establishment of colonies. The American Revolution led to the birth of a new nation, one that was founded on the principles of liberty and democracy. The 19th century was a period of westward expansion and industrialization. The Civil War was a pivotal moment in the nation's history, as it resolved the issue of slavery and preserved the Union. The 20th century has been characterized by technological advancement, social change, and global influence. The United States has played a significant role in shaping the world, and its history continues to be a source of inspiration and learning for people around the globe.

The early years of the United States were marked by exploration and the establishment of colonies. The first European settlers arrived in North America in the late 15th and early 16th centuries. They established small, isolated communities that were often dependent on the mother country for supplies and protection. The colonies grew in number and size, and they began to develop their own distinct cultures and economies. The American Revolution was a result of the colonies' desire for self-governance and independence from British rule. The war was fought from 1775 to 1783, and it resulted in the United States becoming a sovereign nation.

The 19th century was a period of westward expansion and industrialization. The United States acquired vast territories through purchase and conquest, and it began to develop a national identity. The Industrial Revolution brought about significant changes in the way people lived and worked. Factories and cities grew, and the middle class emerged. The Civil War was a pivotal moment in the nation's history, as it resolved the issue of slavery and preserved the Union. The war was fought from 1861 to 1865, and it resulted in the United States becoming a more unified and powerful nation.

The 20th century has been characterized by technological advancement, social change, and global influence. The United States has played a significant role in shaping the world, and its history continues to be a source of inspiration and learning for people around the globe. The United States has been a leader in the development of new technologies, and it has been a champion of human rights and democracy. The United States has also been a major force in the world economy, and it has played a key role in the development of the modern world.

World Food Programme. Indeed, one of the great strengths of the Programme is that it will provide food to those who need it and can use it, but at the same time will safeguard the vital interests of commercial exporters, who trade to live. The United Nations and the FAO have fully recognized that one cannot -- to use a colloquial phrase -- rob Peter to pay Paul.

Before I turn to the draft resolution before us, I should like to emphasize one further point. In this Committee and in the Economic and Social Council we spend a great deal of time debating questions of co-ordination. In the World Food Programme the two major agencies concerned with the elimination of hunger and with basic economic development -- the United Nations and the Food and Agricultural Organization -- are equal partners administering this new experiment in international assistance, each selecting ten of the twenty members of the Intergovernmental Committee. The launching of this new co-ordinated programme represents a challenge to the United Nations system, for, as the Secretary-General pointed out on September 5 at the Pledging Conference, it illustrates the possibilities of combined and concerted action within this United Nations family of organizations. The success of this co-ordinated approach is important to the future of the whole United Nations system.

The draft resolution before us refers to the United Nations Development Decade and in particular, to the need to eliminate illiteracy, hunger and disease. It cannot, of course, be expected that the World Food Programme, with its modest resources, can immediately eliminate hunger and malnutrition from the world. It is after all an experimental programme. It can, however, as I have already indicated, help to alleviate suffering in emergencies and assist in economic and social development. We would hope that through what it may achieve during the next three years it will make an important contribution to the success of the Development Decade.

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The operative part of this resolution expresses satisfaction at the establishment of the World Food Programme and notes with appreciation that 39 countries have pledged more than \$88.7 million to the Programme. Since the target is \$100 million, paragraph 3 invites other states members to give further consideration to making pledges so that the target may be reached. My Delegation would most strongly urge that there be a favourable response to this appeal. Finally, the resolution urges all member countries to support the World Food Programme in order that it may fulfill its objectives.

With reference to operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, it is essential that the World Food Programme be provided with more resources in the form of cash. We would urge all countries to consider, as a matter of urgency, making at least one-third of their contributions in the form of cash.

A few minutes ago, I described the World Food Programme as another weapon for the United Nations in its war on want. I deliberately used the language of war, Mr. Chairman. This Organization is nothing if not a peacekeeping organization. It fights the peace on many fronts -- the political, the legal, the social and, -- of course, -- the economic. In establishing the World Food Programme it is our hope that the United Nations has been given new resources to wage its continuing war on poverty and misery.

Let us be under no illusions about the size of the task before us or the size of the resources at our disposal. The task is enormous; the resources of the World Food Programme, both in money and time, are strictly limited. This is an experimental programme limited to a three-year period and confined to attacking problems of hunger in three clearly-defined areas. The resources of the Programme are as limited as its scope and the time at its disposal. The target which we established at the 16th Session for the entire three-year period

of the Programme's operations was \$100 million. The fact that we have already witnessed the pledging of nearly \$90 million in commodities, services and cash is enormously heartening but even the most optimistic among us know that in three years, and with \$100 million at our disposal we cannot eliminate the scourge of hunger. In practical terms, we can only hope to alleviate its most serious forms and to moderate its most wasteful after effects.

This is a sternly practical view, Mr. Chairman. The World Food Programme is a sternly practical programme. By its very pragmatism we think it will succeed in its objectives where earlier and more far-reaching schemes never got off the drawing-board.

Mr. Chairman, for all the reasons I have mentioned the co-sponsors are asking the General Assembly in this resolution to express its satisfaction that the World Food Programme has been established and to urge those member states which have not already done so to consider the possibility of making a pledge to the Programme.

It is our hope that the World Food Programme will play its part in solving the riddle of a world where, even in the midst of the technological revolution of the 20th Century, hunger continues to exist side by side with plenty. We hope that the resolution before us will be adopted without protracted debate and with unanimous support.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

