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Chairman: Mr. Costa P. CARANICAS (Greece).

AGENDA ITEM 46

**Review of the World Food Programme (A/7603, chap. X,
sect. D; A/7709)**

1. Mr. AQUINO (Executive Director of the World Food Programme) observed that the draft resolution recommended for adoption by the General Assembly by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1443 (XLVII) and reproduced in a note by the Secretary-General (A/7709), proposed in operative paragraph 1 that for the two years 1971 and 1972 a target of \$300 million should be established for voluntary contributions to the World Food Programme. A target of that order did not seem excessive. It had been endorsed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO and had been approved by the Economic and Social Council and the Council of FAO. It would be recalled that the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme had set a target of \$200 million for the current period 1969-1970. The Pledging Conference on the Programme, held in early 1968, had yielded a total of \$120 million in firm pledges. With the help of donations in kind from the European Economic Community, sizable additional contributions from Canada and the Netherlands, matched by the United States and substantial contributions from countries signatories of the Food Aid Convention of the International Grains Arrangement, 1967¹, a total figure of \$290 million had been reached, nearly 50 per cent more than the original target. That was a promising sign for the next biennium, but it meant that preparations must be made for the adequate enlargement of the World Food Programme's sphere of action. The notable increase in resources and projects, the quickening rate of expenditure and the growth in the number of recipients gave grounds for optimism about the future of multilateral food aid. Since the start of activities in 1963, the funds obligated by the Programme totalled \$790 million and 386 projects had been undertaken the world over. To contribute to their financing, recipient countries had committed nearly \$3,500 million of their own resources. That gave some idea of how far local efforts could be mobilized for food aid. The

Programme had furthermore undertaken, with the approval of the Director-General of FAO, ninety-nine emergency operations in fifty-nine countries at a total cost of \$76 million. World Food Programme projects could be divided into three major groups: those serving to develop human resources, those helping to improve economic and social infrastructure, and those designed to achieve short-term results. The growing project load and the widening scope of individual projects showed that the World Food Programme had come of age. From the \$88 million for projects in 1967 the figure had risen to \$202 million for 1968 and \$330 million for 1969. In 1967, only one project had cost over \$10 million; there had been seven in 1968 and in 1969 there had again been seven, with three of them exceeding \$40 million. The first of those three major projects, for India, was to develop in five years a dairy industry capable of supplying several Indian cities; the total cost of the project was \$56 million. A project in the United Arab Republic that was to cost a total of \$45 million over five years would promote land development and exploitation of the areas irrigated from the Aswan Dam. The project in Colombia, costing \$42.5 million, would provide supplementary food for disadvantaged groups and promote nutrition education.

2. Whatever their size, the World Food Programme's projects all received the same attention. Food aid was not directed solely at increasing consumption. By channelling larger resources to developing countries, the Programme was seeking to expand consumption indirectly through rising incomes resulting from economic development and through the better use of human resources. Project selection was based on very rigorous criteria. The adoption of the proposed targets would enable the Programme to make further progress in the years to come.

3. Mr. RATH (Uruguay) drew attention to General Assembly resolution 2462 (XXIII), as well as to Economic and Social Council resolution 1443 (XLVII) in which a draft resolution was recommended for adoption by the Assembly (see A/7709). Even if it could not provide a definitive solution to the food problem, the World Food Programme did provide a means of gaining time in which to work out basic long-term solutions, of establishing systems to give warning of food shortages resulting from crop failures, of ensuring closer co-ordination among the various bodies concerned with nutrition, of codifying food policies at different levels, of promoting research into new sources of food production and of providing minimum levels for both world and regional food reserves.

4. There was no need to stress the importance of the protein deficiency problem. There were two possible remedies: to use non-conventional and new sources of food

¹ See *International Wheat Conference, 1967* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.II.D.5).

production and to increase the output of conventional foodstuffs while also improving conservation, storage and marketing techniques. Mr. Bigwood, the Director of the Food Research Centre of the Institute for European Studies estimated that large-scale industrial production of high-value proteins should be capable of meeting the world population's growing needs. According to FAO estimates, the output of animal protein had amounted to 20 million tons in 1968; it would need to reach 40 million tons in ten years and 60 million by the end of the century. There had been a rise in protein production from yeasts, marine plankton, bacteria and micro-organisms cultivated in the petroleum refining process; in the latter case there were possibilities of large-scale industrial food production. The production by synthesis of edible oils and fats and vitamins might well provide a supplement to conventional production and satisfy growing demand. Mention should also be made of research into photosynthesis.

5. Uruguay was a producer of meat, eggs, milk, fish and food products of vegetable origin. Meat-producing countries were encountering marketing difficulties arising from the fact that the principal consuming countries were also major producers, contrary to the situation in the case of agricultural commodities. Meat was a primary commodity which did not lend itself to stockpiling. Meat prices were continually fluctuating and the market-dominating importing countries set their own prices for the surpluses of exporting countries. The unfair result was that the developing countries were subsidizing meat production in the developed countries. The growth prospects for the meat market were favourable, but the distortions to which it was subject were apt to discourage meat-producing developing countries, to the detriment of the world population's protein requirement.

6. Among other important agricultural development worth noting were the new varieties of rice, wheat and hybrid corn and the tremendous possibilities for increased productivity based on genetics and the improved use of fertilizers and technological resources. Among the problems to be solved was the deterioration in the ratio of the cost of products consumed to the cost of agricultural production and the inadequacy of conservation facilities, entailing a loss of at least 20 per cent of world food production. In addition, food habits were by no means universally in keeping with the requirements of hygiene and dietetics. While under-nourishment led to protein and calorie malnutrition, which in children manifested itself and the kwashiorkor syndrome, over-nourishment was conducive to obesity, diabetes and cardio-vascular diseases. Some evils could be averted merely by food transfer, but that was a biological equation which could be solved by fairer distribution at the international level.

7. Mr. BJORVATN (Norway) said that he was glad to see that the World Food Programme contributions target for 1968-1970 had been substantially surpassed and thought that the target set in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution (see A/7709) recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1443 (XLVII) was realistic. His delegation hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously by the Committee and by the General Assembly.

8. His Government intended to make a substantial increase in its contribution to the World Food Programme for 1971-1972. It was also prepared to carry over and make available to the World Food Programme for 1971-1972 any portion of its pledges remaining unused at the end of 1970. As the Executive Director of the World Food Programme had stated in the Council,² food aid was an investment in the future and should not be looked upon as charity. The recent growth in the social and economic development activities of the Programme was proof of that assertion: adequate food supplies for the millions of people suffering from hunger or malnutrition were a prerequisite for further social and economic development in the modern world, especially in view of the extremely high population growth rate in many developing countries.

9. Food aid must be as effective as possible. His delegation associated itself with the Secretary-General's view that a food aid system should be set up with emphasis on planning food aid supplies in terms of the needs of recipient countries rather than on disposal of surpluses, while at the same time provision was made for absorbing such surpluses. His delegation hoped that all countries with food surpluses would make full use of the World Food Programme system. It also felt that more of the grain contributions under the Food Aid Convention should be channelled through the World Food Programme. Moreover, it was important that cash contributions to the Programme should be sufficient to operate transport and other services on an economically sound and competitive basis, and to buy urgently needed high-protein foods.

10. His delegation admired the efficient way in which the Executive Director and staff of the World Food Programme were doing their work. Increased co-ordination would mean that the funds available to the Programme could be used even more effectively.

11. Mr. SAM (Ghana) noted that, during 1968 and 1969, world food production had improved both in volume and quality, particularly in some countries of Asia and in East Africa. It could therefore be said that the "green revolution" was under way. In many developing countries, agricultural development budgets had been increased, and factories were producing more pesticides, modern farming equipment and fertilizers. The "green revolution" also showed that certain projects started a few years before were beginning to produce the anticipated results.

12. The increase in food production because of changed methods strengthened his delegation's conviction that farmers in the developing countries were prepared to change their ways when they realized that the new methods produced positive results. The "green revolution" was giving new hope to development planners all over the world. However, agricultural development schemes must be designed to suit the particular requirements of the developing countries, and the change to modern methods must be a gradual one if it were not to damage domestic production. Despite the encouraging results, however, even more food had to be produced, and transport and storage facilities had to be improved. Those were areas in which the developing would need help from the developed countries.

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-seventh Session, 1609th meeting.*

13. Attention should also be paid to food content and levels of nutrition. In that connexion, greater attention should be given to the protein needs of expectant mothers, children and youth in the developing countries. It was encouraging to note that the FAO/WHO/UNICEF Protein Advisory Group had taken steps to bridge the protein gap. Marked improvement had been achieved, particularly in raising the protein value of maize, which was a staple food in many developing countries. In that connexion, his delegation endorsed the Group's recommendation that protein supplies of plant and animal origin should be supplemented by those from non-conventional sources.

14. His Government attached great importance to agricultural development. In Ghana, over 60 per cent of the labour force was employed in agriculture, and agricultural development was considered to be a basic factor in economic growth. However, his country was aware of the obstacles to be overcome before sustained agricultural development could be achieved. Those obstacles included an inefficient marketing system for farm produce, the instability of market prices, difficulties in obtaining farm credits and loans, and the absence of effective liaison between research workers and farmers. To combat those obstacles, his Government had allocated over \$12 million for agricultural development in its 1969/1970 budget. Furthermore, it was encouraging people who wished to go into farming by granting loans and giving more attention to agriculture in school programmes.

15. Despite the recent rise in food output, many developing countries would still need food aid during the Second United Nations Development Decade. His delegation therefore hoped that the General Assembly would give unanimous approval to the draft resolution recommended for adoption in Council resolution 1443 (XLVII) and that Governments would respond to the appeal to increase their contributions.

16. His delegation had carefully studied section 9 in chapter X of the annual report of the Economic and Social Council (A/7603) dealing with multilateral food aid and had noted the division into three groups of the projects implemented by the World Food Programme. However, it had sought in vain to discover the Council's views on those three groups of projects. It believed that those projects had been implemented with the full co-operation of other agencies working in similar fields. Perhaps at the next session information would be available on the results of those projects and the benefits that had accrued from them to the developing countries.

17. Transfers of agricultural production as aid in kind were admittedly difficult to organize. On the other hand, if the donor countries were able to use resources that would otherwise remain idle, the real cost of such transfers would be relatively low and it should therefore be possible for those countries to give more aid in kind. Donor countries should also help recipient countries to acquire the necessary complementary inputs to enable them to become self-sufficient after a certain time. In that respect the aid needed would be irrigation schemes, new seed varieties, fertilizers, pesticides and above all modern farming machinery. However, for such aid inputs to be fully effective, attention must also be given to infrastructure road networks and ample storage facilities.

18. Mr. OLSEN (Denmark) observed that there were few areas in which the economic gap between the rich and the poor countries was more conspicuous than food production. Fortunately the organs of the United Nations had intensified their efforts in that area, and the prospects of further improvement were comparatively bright. The Administrator of UNDP had stressed the importance which his organization attached to the food problem and had said that it would be possible to step up world food production by 100 per cent within the next ten or fifteen years. Nevertheless, multilateral food aid would continue to play an essential role in the foreseeable future.

19. The Government of Denmark fully supported the recommendation in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution contained in Council resolution 1443 (XLVII) setting the target for pledges to the World Food Programme for 1971 and 1972 at \$300 million. That recommendation had been unanimously adopted by the FAO Conference, at which Denmark had announced that it would pledge \$15 million for 1971-1972, an increase of two thirds over its contribution for 1969-1970. His Government hoped that many countries would follow its example at the next pledging conference.

20. Mr. HILLEL (Israel) said that it should not be forgotten that half of the human race lived below subsistence level and that in the poorer countries the population was growing faster than the food supply which it needed. In the circumstances, the activities of the World Food Programme should be planned in such a way as to increase the effectiveness of the international effort to supply food to developing countries.

21. According to the annual report of FAO,³ most of the regions of the world, with the exception of Latin America, had reported an increase in agricultural production during 1968. Nevertheless, that did not solve the problem faced by the developing countries. Unless Governments continued to concentrate on agriculture, the potential of the "green revolution" would not be realized with the desired speed. The "green revolution" could be considered as a brilliant example of a quantitative breakthrough, but great efforts were still needed in order to secure a permanent and regular increase in the agricultural production of most of the developing countries, to provide low-cost fertilizers to developing countries and to create the necessary service facilities. Coherent policies of agricultural development would have to be adopted and international institutions would have to adapt to varying conditions in the individual developing countries. A continued effort should be made to increase awareness of the importance of agricultural development in the improvement of living conditions and economic growth. Development was mainly the result of improved seed varieties, increased use of fertilizers and the gradual development of techniques of agricultural production. In Israel, through research, cereal yields had been increased from 600 kg per hectare to over 5,000 kg. The value of production per employed person had risen from 1955 to 1965 by 140 per cent and agricultural output by 156 per cent.

³ See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, "Seventh annual report of the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme", transmitted to the Economic and Social Council under the symbol E/4696.

22. His delegation did not subscribe to the opinion of those who viewed with scepticism the conclusions of FAO with regard to the solution of the world food crisis. The encouraging results obtained had secured a breathing space which must be fully exploited to promote agricultural development. Governments should endeavour to take appropriate measures to enable the developing countries to become self-sufficient in food requirements. FAO reported that if those measures were implemented by 1985 the main problems of hunger and malnutrition could be overcome.

23. During the transitional period, the developing countries would continue to need aid in the form of food and seed, fertilizers and insecticides. However, that aid should be viewed in the context of over-all development aid. The World Food Programme's projects would have to be interrelated with other development projects, and each programme of food aid should be so planned as to avoid disturbing economic and social conditions within the recipient countries.

24. His Government was of the opinion that the role of the World Food Programme was important not only because it provided aid, but because it encouraged economic development and growth.

25. Mr. OLDS (United States of America) said that as long as a man was hungry he was unable to achieve his full potential as a human being. There was no need to draw attention to the extent of the United States Government's past and present support of the activities of the World Food Programme. Therefore his delegation wished to emphasize that it was anxious that the recommendation appearing in the draft resolution contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1443 (XLVII) (see A/7709) should be unanimously adopted. It hoped that at the pledging conference, Governments would find the resources necessary to exceed the target of \$300 million fixed for 1971 and 1972. It was earnestly hoped that due account would be taken of the provisions of the Council's recommendation in operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution that Governments should make every effort to carry over to the period 1971-1972 any portion of the contributions of commodities and services pledged for the period 1969-1970 which remained unused at the end of 1970. That was the practice of the United States Government in food aid because it was aware of the problems raised by the administration of that aid, and in particular, that it was sometimes difficult for recipient Governments to finance their matching contributions.

26. United States agricultural surpluses had dropped sharply and had virtually disappeared, but the United States Government was determined to guarantee sufficient farm output to meet domestic needs and contribute to international food aid. In order to implement General Assembly resolution 2462 (XXIII), it had decided to convene in the very near future a White House Conference on Food, Nutrition and Health. The Conference would consist of delegates representing fifty States and would prepare bills and recommendations designed to shape government policy in that field. The Conference would study means of eliminating malnutrition and would formulate a national food policy and a policy for educating the public.

27. Mr. Pao-Nan CHENG (China) paid a tribute to the Executive Director of the World Food Programme and to his predecessor and said that he was gratified to note the extension of the Programme's activities and its increased resources. Two of the projects for the year 1969 concerned China, and the Government and population of his country wished to express their appreciation for the assistance provided by the World Food Programme.

28. The food situation in most developing countries remained acute and it would take many years before some of the countries with a food deficit became self-sufficient. The Programme's activities should therefore be extended to help those countries increase their production. His delegation had already stated in the general debate that priority should be given to the development of agriculture in order to bring about a real "green revolution" and efforts should be made to perfect and popularize "miracle seeds". Furthermore, as had been proposed, assistance should also take the form of supplying essential factors of production, such as fertilizers. The suggestion made by the Executive Director that the activities of the Programme should be classified in three categories seemed to be a wise one. The future development of the Programme should take place within the context of the Second Development Decade and plans should be based on an accurate knowledge of the social and economic conditions prevailing in the recipient countries, so that they could meet actual needs. Finally, the Programme's activities should be strengthened to promote the development of human resources and improve social infrastructure. In conclusion, he said that his delegation supported the Council's recommendation that a target of \$300 million should be established for voluntary contributions and hoped that it would be met as a result of the efforts made by all participating Governments.

29. Mr. CORREA (Chile) said that although the activities of the World Food Programme had been effective in certain critical situations, aid should not be restricted to the supply of food but should also comprise the other factors necessary to develop agricultural production, such as fertilizers and agricultural equipment. Furthermore, in establishing programmes for future years, due account should be taken of the strategy adopted for the Second Development Decade so that the Programme's projects could be brought into harmony with the plans of recipient countries. The Programme's activities should be co-ordinated with the activities of other organs, particularly the Freedom from Hunger Campaign, which were all designed to combat poverty. For the moment, there was no need for any merging but co-ordination should be increased.

30. Mr. RANKIN (Canada) stated that there should be a more equitable distribution of contributions from all the food-producing countries. In particular, a much greater contribution could be made by non-North American countries. Canada would continue to support the World Food Programme, in order to contribute to the solution of development problems. However, those problems should be examined in their totality; in order for those countries which were not self-supporting in food to be able to meet their own needs, efforts had to be made within the context of balanced over-all economic development plans. The application of science and technology to development

would be very vital to the success of the Second Development Decade and his delegation was gratified to note that certain private foundations had already made invaluable contributions in that field, as several speakers had also pointed out. Other technological breakthroughs could be anticipated, with consequences as invaluable as those resulting from the production of high-yield cereals. Nevertheless it was important that there should be no slackening in efforts, and Canada would continue to support the activities of the World Food Programme.

31. Mr. MORALES (Cuba) said that, from the outset, his Government had provided substantial support to the World Food Programme. During each of the three two-year periods of the Programme's operations, Cuba had supplied 5,000 tons of sugar, which represented the largest contribution made by an under-developed country. As the Executive Director had said, of the Latin American countries, Cuba had contributed most to the Programme; once more Cuba would make 5,000 tons of sugar available for the years 1969-1970. His delegation, which was in favour of the maintenance of the Programme, would vote for the draft resolution which had been recommended for adoption by the Assembly in Council resolution 1443 (XLVII) (see A/7709). It approved of the target established for the period 1971-1972 and urged the World Food Programme to obtain commodities by calling, whenever possible, upon the under-developed countries which exported them.

32. Mr. MOLLER (Sweden) commented on the importance of the activities of the World Food Programme and said that the contribution made by his Government, which was the fourth largest contributor, amounted to \$8 million for 1969-1970. In addition, in 1968 Sweden had given food aid amounting to \$16 million to countries suffering from acute shortages.

33. In the context of the Food Aid Convention, Sweden would provide each year 54,000 tons of grain, plus a contribution of about \$800,000 for administrative expenses. His delegation noted with satisfaction that contributions to the World Food Programme had greatly surpassed the target for the years 1969 and 1970, and it hoped to witness the same positive response towards the target for the biennium 1971-1972. His delegation had in other forums declared that a considerable increase in the pledging target would meet with the approval of the Swedish Government provided that it could be reasonably expected to be attained. It supported the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1443 (XLVII) raising the target for 1971-1972 to \$300 million.

34. Food aid should be regarded as an investment in the future, not as a temporary measure designed to solve immediate problems. The World Food Programme should therefore concentrate on helping the developing countries to increase their agricultural production so that they could eventually meet their own needs. The role of the Programme in the Second Development Decade had already been considered by the competent organs, and it had apparently been recognized that one of the most important parts of its work would be to promote the modernization of the agricultural sector. Obviously, therefore, non-food items needed for production such as, fertilizers, pesticides,

equipment, etc., would also have to be provided. His delegation had maintained that view during the debates in the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme. It was therefore to be hoped that the group of experts which was to meet to discuss the implementation of the General Assembly's decisions would submit suitable recommendations in that respect. It was also important to come to grips with the problems of waste of food products resulting mainly from the lack of storage facilities and his delegation hoped that the United Nations organs concerned and the competent national authorities would try to resolve them. Furthermore, there was a need to ensure a socially equitable distribution of the gains made possible by the modernization of agriculture.

35. His delegation was pleased to note that the new resources available to the World Food Programme would make it possible to combat malnutrition, which was tending to become an even more crucial question than undernourishment. The new activities relating to the provision of protein-rich foods undertaken by UNDP and the World Food Programme were therefore very welcome, since they would help, above all, to ensure the physical and mental growth of millions of children. It must not be forgotten, however, that population growth threatened to nullify the gains resulting from the "green revolution". The questions of population and nutrition were therefore directly related. There were of course many other problems contributing to the situation of today where many developing countries were so-called food-deficit countries. Against that background the need to tackle the food problem on the basis of a joint strategy became very obvious. Such a strategy would have to take into account the manifold activities which directly or indirectly affected the food situation in the world. Finally, his delegation was pleased to note that IBRD would continue to consider agriculture as a priority area.

36. Mr. RINGNALDA (Netherlands) noted with pleasure that the activities of the World Food Programme were developing at a remarkable rate. He pointed out in particular that the target set for contributions had been surpassed by \$88 million. That gratifying result was due to the additional pledges made by a number of countries, including the Netherlands. The demand for aid, however, which at one time had been meagre, had also greatly increased. His delegation wished to congratulate the Executive Director and was glad to find that the Programme had been equal to its task. It was apparent, however, that commitments were far greater than available funds, and it would be interesting to see the detailed study on that question which had been requested at the last meeting of the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme. The World Food Programme should be implemented in accordance with systematic long-term plans based on the data which had already been compiled. It was to be hoped that FAO's Indicative World Plan for Agricultural Development and the recommendations of the group of experts would provide the necessary material for future planning. His delegation endorsed the recommendations of the Pearson Commission's report concerning food problems.⁴ It supported the activities of

⁴ See Commission on International Development, *Partners in Development* (New York, Praeger Publishers, Inc., 1969).

the World Food Programme and wished to state that the contributions pledged by its Government in the past two years had amounted to more than \$20 million, not counting aid given through the European Economic Community. Subject to parliamentary approval, the aid provided by the Netherlands in the form of dairy products would amount to \$6.7 million under the 1970 budget, and its total contributions for the years 1971 and 1972 would be increased. In addition, the Government of the Netherlands was prepared to carry over unused portions of its previous contributions, as requested. Lastly, he announced that his delegation would support the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council.

37. Miss WILLIAMS (New Zealand) said that her Government had consistently favoured increased food aid. In view of the complex nature of the problem, however, action should be taken on a multilateral basis. Her delegation had supported the activities of the World Food Programme over the past seven years and would vote in favour of the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1443 (XLVII). Since the budget for the next two years was to be increased by 50 per cent, her Government, to show the keen interest it took in the activities of the Programme, would increase its own contribution by 50 per cent also. Her delegation hoped that other countries would follow its example. In conclusion, it wished to express its confidence in the Executive Director of the World Food Programme.

38. Mr. SOW (Guinea) said that his delegation had always fully supported the work of the World Food Programme. In view of the magnitude of the problem, that work would have to be further intensified in the years to come and the donor countries would have to increase their contributions. The aid given would also have to be more in keeping with the needs of the requesting countries; his delegation therefore hoped that the recommendations of the group of experts would help to make food aid more effective. It was necessary, for example, to concentrate on the protein problem and to seek ways of helping the countries of the Third World to increase their production of food. It was also important to devise means of preventing natural disasters, or at least of assisting the victims of such disasters. In future years the aid programmes should make special provision for the needs of the most needy countries. He noted with satisfaction the spirit of co-operation shown by those in charge of the World Food Programme, and said that his country would support the efforts of that organization in years to come.

39. Mr. AHMED (Pakistan) said that he wished to congratulate the Executive Director of the World Food Programme and his predecessor. The results which had been achieved showed that the activities of the Programme had been very useful. They had made it possible not only to supply aid in emergencies, but also to meet the needs of deprived populations. While it was true that the production of food was increasing, especially in developing countries like Pakistan, the needs also continued to increase. Pakistan, which had received effective aid in many areas, would continue to support the efforts of the Programme and would vote in favour of the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council (see A/7709). His delegation hoped that the donor countries would intensify their efforts to ensure that the target was reached: however important aid in kind might be, financial aid was indispensable, particularly for the purchase of protein-rich foods and for the transport of commodities. His delegation approved the decision to establish a group of experts and shared the view expressed by other delegations that assistance should not be limited to food aid, but should cover other items needed to increase agricultural production.

40. Mr. ONODERA (Japan) said that food aid should be temporary, and that the essential thing was to help the countries with food shortages to increase their agricultural production. His Government had made an initial contribution to the Asian Development Bank of \$20 million intended for the Agricultural Development Fund, which had been followed by a further contribution of \$20 million in 1969. It had also supplied, within the framework of the International Grains Arrangement, 1967, a considerable amount of agricultural equipment and fertilizers to several Asian countries. The major breakthrough in food production in many developing countries, the so-called "green revolution", was encouraging because it brought the developing countries nearer to the goal of self-sufficiency in food production. Although the outlook was fairly satisfactory, Japan was nevertheless convinced of the seriousness of the situation in many countries and would co-operate with the food aid programmes. In conclusion, his delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1443 (XLVII) for adoption by the General Assembly (see A/7709).

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.