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THIRTEENTH SESSION, **529th**
 MEETING

FRIDAY, 31 AUGUST 1951, at 10 a.m.

PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA

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President: Mr. Hernán SANTA CRUZ (Chile).

Present: Representatives of the following countries:
 Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, Czechoslovakia, France,
 India, Iran, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland,
 Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United
 Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United
 States of America, Uruguay.

Representatives of the following specialized
 agencies:

International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture
 Organization of the United Nations, International Civil
 Aviation Organization, United Nations Educational,
 Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health
 Organization, International Refugee Organization.

**United Nations programme of technical assistance
 (E/2001 and Corr.1 and 2) (*continued*)**

1. The PRESIDENT announced that the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had requested the deferment, pending the receipt of instructions from his Government, of the vote on the draft resolution in paragraph 19 of document E/2001, as revised in accordance with his (the President's) statement at the end of the 527th meeting. If there was no objection, the vote on the draft resolution would be deferred.

It was so agreed.

**Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of
 the United Nations (E/2008 and Add.1 to 3)**

Problem of food shortage and famine in many regions

2. The PRESIDENT called upon the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to introduce its report (E/2008 and Add.1 to 3).

3. Mr. McDOUGALL (Food and Agriculture Organization) said that the Director-General of FAO deeply regretted that he was unable to present the report in person; he had intended to do so, but the difficulty which the Council inevitably experienced in determining the

date on which individual items of the agenda would be taken up had made it impossible for him so to arrange his commitments as to allow him to attend on the present occasion; he had had to leave to attend an FAO regional conference which was taking place in Syria.

4. The report consisted of four parts: a brief covering report to the Council (E/2008), together with three annexes: the report of the Director-General on the work of FAO 1949/50 (E/2008/Add.1); the Organization's draft programme of work for 1951 (E/2008/Add.2); and the report of the special session of the Conference held in November 1950 (E/2008/Add.3).

5. As indicated in the covering document, it had not been possible for the Director-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council for consideration at the current session the Organization's programme of work for 1952/53, because that programme had not yet been approved by the FAO Conference, which was due to meet in November. The Director-General had, however, included a brief summary of his proposed programme of work for the next two years in section D) of the covering document.

6. FAO was in a relatively difficult position so far as its regular programme of work was concerned, because its budget had been limited by what had been, in effect, the imposition of a ceiling. FAO had been the first of the post-war international organizations to approach governments for contributions. At that time, October 1945, one very important contributor had imposed a ceiling. Although the position had been modified, in effect a ceiling of 5 million dollars had been in operation and, owing to the non-adherence of certain countries, for several years that total had not been reached. In view of its limited budget and its very wide responsibilities, FAO, by which he meant the FAO Conference, its Council and its present Director-General and his predecessor and their staff, had been forced to give constant attention to the establishment of priorities.

7. The report before the Council did not cover the activities of FAO under the expanded programme of

technical assistance, which were described in the report of the Technical Assistance Board to the Council. However, since those activities were as important as the activities carried out under FAO's "regular" programme, he would mention that the expanded programme of technical assistance was such that, in order to ensure most advantageous utilization of the special fund, requests for assistance from governments had to be most carefully discussed and that had inevitably involved a considerable delay in getting the programme under way. FAO's experience was that requests from governments under the expanded programme naturally tended to increase in number as governments realized that the work of technical experts was proving advantageous to them. In spite of the inevitably slow start, FAO had so far secured the services of about 200 technical assistance experts drawn from approximately thirty different countries, and those experts were working in thirty-five under-developed countries. FAO had, up to 30 June 1951, engaged 40 per cent of the technical experts engaged under the expanded programme of technical assistance. It would be difficult in making a general report on the work of FAO to keep entirely separate its work under the expanded programme of technical assistance and its work under its regular programme. The initial work carried out under the latter had created many opportunities for providing technical assistance. The information and experience being gained under the expanded programme was increasing the significance of FAO's regular work. In his remarks, he would not attempt to distinguish between the two programmes.

8. During the current year, the headquarters of FAO had been transferred to Rome. The move from Washington to Rome had been effected in ninety days, and while it had caused inevitable dislocation and some loss of staff, the Organization's technical work had not been seriously disrupted.

9. In 1949, the FAO Conference had decided that there should be biennial general conferences instead of annual ones. It had been found necessary, however, to hold a special session of the Conference in 1950 in order to approve a number of administrative and financial matters connected with the move to Rome. The opportunity had been taken to discuss a number of other subjects, including the revision of certain articles in the Constitution, in the rules of procedure and in the financial regulations. The report of that conference was before the Council (E/2008/Add.3). The decision to hold biennial general conferences was an interesting new experiment; it made it necessary to plan and budget for longer periods. The decision had also increased the responsibility of the FAO Council, which was composed of eighteen Member States appointed by the Conference.

10. Section A) of the covering document (E/2008) provided a brief account of the way in which the Organization had, for the past five years, related its resources to its multifarious tasks. In the same way as the Economic and Social Council was at present engaged in reviewing its own operations, FAO had undertaken a general review of its activities.

11. Reference was made to the concentration of effort upon international commodity problems, which had been

characteristic of FAO's activities during the period 1946 to 1949, and to difficulties in the way of securing the agreement of a sufficient number of governments to bring into being international instruments to ensure stable prices for agricultural commodities. FAO remained deeply concerned with those problems. As he had pointed out at the twelfth session of the Economic and Social Council, a number of governments never seemed to consider that any given moment was propitious for the conclusion of commodity agreements; they either expected a fall in prices or a rise which might be favourable or detrimental to them. As a result, the International Wheat Agreement remained the only substantial achievement in that field. FAO considered that stable prices were essential to the great increase needed in world production of food and agricultural raw materials. No further progress could be made in that respect until governments changed their attitude.

12. Section A) of the covering document also showed that FAO attached considerable importance to extension services, and to balancing its programme and establishing priorities for 1952 to 1953.

13. On pages 31 and 32 of the Director-General's report on the work of FAO 1949/50 (E/2008/Add.1), reference was made to the work that was being carried out on the problem of soil erosion and to questions of water utilization and control, a subject discussed at the twelfth session of the Economic and Social Council. It concerned both the urban and rural populations of all countries in greater or lesser degree. A major part of the basic problems which must be solved if water resources were to be adequately conserved and developed depended on watershed protection and the control of soil-erosion, which were matters of direct concern to FAO.

14. FAO was taking great interest in the development of inland fisheries, and was beginning to help such development under the expanded programme of technical assistance. Pisciculture could be of great importance in expanding food resources and helping to supply the additional animal proteins which the populations of under-developed countries so sorely needed.

15. FAO had established regional forestry and fishery councils, composed of representatives of governments in the region and serviced by FAO. Each regional council was responsible for recommendations for action by the governments in the region. The regional approach was proving efficient and economical, both to the governments and to the Organization. He would not say more on the subject of forestry in view of the fact that the Council would discuss the important question of world supplies of woodpulp and newsprint in connexion with another item of its agenda.

16. A description of FAO's work on economics, marketing and statistics was provided in pages 42 to 49 of document E/2008/Add.1. He would like to correct the false impression apparently made on some representatives by FAO's statistical activities. The collection of statistics relating to food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries throughout the world was an important, permanent and, indeed, an essential task of FAO, but the resources FAO devoted to statistics amounted to less than 10 per cent of the Organization's regular budget.

17. FAO's activities in connexion with nutrition (E/2008/Add.1, pages 68 to 73) were closely co-ordinated with those of the World Health Organization (WHO). Both Organizations had some international responsibility in regard to nutrition. Generally speaking, FAO's share of that responsibility was concerned with the avoidance of malnutrition by bringing about a better understanding of nutritional principles and assisting governments to formulate nutritional policies based on the domestic production of suitable foods. WHO's share was more strictly medical; it was to combat the effects of malnutrition. FAO and WHO had established a joint expert committee on nutrition, which dealt with both sides of the subject. During the whole period of the two Organizations' close co-operation in regard to nutrition there had been no duplication of work.

18. FAO's collaboration with other inter-governmental agencies, as explained in section C) of the covering document (E/2008), was partly of a continuous nature and partly for short periods. FAO was carrying out much work in collaboration with the Council's regional economic commissions. FAO serviced the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in so far as agriculture and forestry were concerned. It was studying jointly with that commission and the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) the subject of trade between Europe and Latin America. A summary of the forthcoming report on that study had aroused considerable interest at the recent session of the latter commission. FAO also co-operated closely with the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), since there were constant food shortages and malnutrition in many countries in that region, since 60 per cent of the population of the region was engaged in agriculture, and since forestry in the region was of outstanding importance.

19. FAO felt that international attention had been concentrated more on the social feature of migration than on the economic features, which included problems of migration for land settlement. Unless proper attention was paid to the suitability of land and water resources in areas selected for land settlement and to consideration of the crops to be grown and animal products to be produced, both from the technical and marketing aspects, there would be a considerable risk of failure. The Directors-General of FAO and the International Labour Office had agreed that FAO had the primary responsibility for the technical side of the problem, and the International Labour Organisation the primary responsibility for the actual handling of the individual migrant.

20. There was close co-operation between FAO and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. During the period under review, FAO had participated in Bank missions to Turkey, Iraq, Uruguay and Chile, and would shortly be participating in a Bank mission to Ceylon. An outstandingly successful form of co-operation between FAO, the Bank and also the United Nations was the organization of a training-centre to assist governments in the formulation of proposals for the international financing of agricultural and allied development projects. The first co-operative venture of that kind had been organized by the three bodies jointly with the Government of Pakistan, which

had acted as host country. Similar training-centres with the same international sponsorship were being organized in Santiago, for the Latin American region, and in Turkey, for the Eastern Mediterranean region.

21. FAO was closely concerned with the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), since there was a close connexion between FAO's agricultural extension activities and UNESCO's programme for the establishment of a series of centres for fundamental education. FAO had made experts available for the pioneer fundamental education centre in Mexico, and was contemplating doing the same for the new centres planned by UNESCO.

22. In section C) of the covering document (E/2008) reference was made to FAO's co-operative activities with inter-governmental agencies other than the specialized agencies of the United Nations. In December 1950 it had been arranged that the second Latin American regional meeting on food and agricultural programmes and outlook and the fourth Inter-American Agricultural Conference should be held in Montevideo. The agenda of the two conferences had been correlated by a joint working party, and joint sessions of the conferences had been held. As a result, each organization had been better represented at the other than might otherwise have been the case, and much time and expense had been saved.

23. It was difficult for an organization presenting a report to the Council to know whether the documents provided were exactly what the Council required for carrying out its co-ordinating functions. FAO, and he believed other specialized agencies, would welcome at some early stage a re-examination of the whole system of reporting by agencies to the Council, since it appeared that at present there was considerable overlapping and duplication. FAO believed that that involved not only a considerable waste of time for delegations, but also an unproductive burden for the reporting agencies.

24. The Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly had recognized that economic development of the under-developed areas of the world was the outstanding economic problem of the present time. While FAO had fully recognized the immensely important part which industrialization must play in such development, it was somewhat perturbed at the lack of interest which governments had in the past shown in the development of their agriculture. The *Manchester Guardian* had recently contained an article entitled "Peasants and the United Nations" in which, after reference to the contrast between the peacemakers of 1950 and those of 1945, it was said that, if the new peacemakers no longer walked in political blinkers, they were still afflicted with one social blind spot: when it came to working out plans for economic reconstruction and development the western politicians and economists thought almost wholly in terms of industrial action, as if agriculture, because it did not need tall chimneys and masses of engines, was something so simple that it could take care of itself. Recent action by the General Assembly and by the Economic and Social Council indicated that governments were beginning to realize the profoundly important part which agriculture must play in proper economic development; FAO would

zealously play its full part in helping to secure energetic action in all the regions of the world in order to achieve balanced development.

25. In answer to Mr. ADARKAR (India), Mr. McDOUGALL (Food and Agriculture Organization) said that he had not commented on the item proposed by the Government of Chile, the problem of food shortages and famine in many regions (item 8 of the agenda), because the President had asked him only to introduce the report of his Organization. He would welcome an opportunity to speak on the item proposed by the Chilean Government after the representative of Chile had given a fuller explanation of its views on the problem than could be obtained from the draft resolution which had been submitted jointly by the delegations of Chile and the United States of America (E/L.240), and which was the only document before the Council on the item.

26. Mr. SCHNAKE VERGARA (Chile) stated that the work of FAO deserved the greatest attention and the strongest support. The Organization constituted a solid foundation on which to base assistance to the underdeveloped countries. It had adapted itself to present-day conditions in the world, and had dealt with the problems confronting it with a full realization of the facts. In its relations with the other specialized agencies and United Nations bodies, FAO had constantly borne in mind the need for co-ordination, and it had afforded valuable aid to the Government of Chile.

27. He emphasized the far-reaching character of FAO's terms of reference, including the task of improving methods of agricultural production and the standard of living of agricultural workers, and of ensuring adequate world supplies of foodstuffs.

28. The reports submitted by the Director-General of FAO made it possible to appreciate the results so far achieved. Those reports showed that the Organization had been active in the field both of studies and of practical measures, and had taken account of the interests of the various regions of the world. Its activities had extended to agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

29. In that connexion, the delegation of Chile wished to point out, however, that the studies undertaken and the programmes drawn up by the Organization had had more effective results in European countries or in countries in receipt of international financial aid, among which the countries of Latin America were not included.

30. It was by no means the Chilean delegation's intention to place obstacles in the way of the studies undertaken by FAO, but it had once again to draw attention to the problem of financing, the solution of which was essential for carrying out the programmes drawn up by the specialized agencies. In that connexion he was glad to note that FAO's draft work programme for 1951 (E/2008/Add.2) did not overlook that factor. Before the Bretton Woods Agreements, FAO might have been regarded as being intended solely for the purpose of research, but after the conclusion of those agreements it was not possible to consider it apart from a programme of practical activities, supplemented by a programme in the field of agricultural transport and industrialization.

31. He also wished to draw attention to the lack of

co-ordination at higher levels in the field of economic development, which hampered attainment of the results that were to be expected from the activities of the organizations engaged in the solution of the problem. The Chilean delegation was convinced that it was necessary to establish, at the highest level, an administration or authority to undertake the task of co-ordination.

32. From among FAO's achievements, he wished to single out those resulting from its collaboration with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The Chilean Government had benefited directly from that collaboration. A joint working party of FAO and the Bank was, at present, in Chile for the purpose of carrying out a number of economic development programmes for the improvement of agriculture. FAO had also co-operated with ECLA, for instance, on the exploitation and development of timber resources and wood industries.

33. FAO had, moreover, promised its help in facilitating immigration to Latin America. It would also take part in the organization of a seminar to be held at Santiago in the following autumn.

34. He also stressed the importance of the chapters of the Director-General's report (E/2008/Add.1) relating to the world trade in foodstuffs. Although it was not possible to draw any final conclusions from the report, it was nevertheless regrettable to find that the stupendous difficulties FAO had encountered in promoting international trade in foodstuffs had obliged it to curtail its activities in that direction.

35. The Chilean Government had proposed the inclusion on the Council's agenda of an item on the problem of food shortages and famine in many regions which the Council was discussing jointly with FAO's report because it considered that the Council should not appear to the world to be neglecting one of mankind's greatest problems. The problem had been particularly acute in several regions of the world during the current year. The Council had discussed the world shortage of food at its fourth, sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth sessions, and as a result of such discussion had made several recommendations for increasing food production, improving distribution and avoiding waste. The need to increase world food production was so great that it could be considered at present the basic economic factor in the world. Scientific and technical progress in the last fifty years had brought knowledge, machinery and experience which could ensure sufficient production to enable all people of the world to enjoy a decent standard of living, but they had not done so; in fact two-thirds of the world's population were still under-nourished. The reports of FAO gave the following indices for annual food production in 1949 and 1950 (100 being the average annual production during the period 1934 to 1938):

The Far East	96
Europe, excluding the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	91
North America	150
Latin America	110
Oceania	129
Africa and the Near East	107
The whole world	101

36. Thus in the last ten years world food production had increased by only 1 per cent, whilst the world's population had increased by 13 per cent. Moreover, it should be remembered that the increase in population had been most marked in the under-developed areas of the world. In some countries the food situation was worse than it had been before the Second World War. Statistics published by FAO showed that average yearly *per capita* consumption of calories and proteins had been smaller in the years 1947 to 1949 than in the years 1934 to 1938 in Asian countries, such as Burma and India, and in some European countries such as Yugoslavia, France, Italy and Austria. On the other hand, average *per capita* consumption of food in such countries as the United States of America and New Zealand, where such consumption had been very high before the Second World War, had increased even further since the war. It was stated in the *Economic Survey of Europe in 1950* (E/ECE/128/Rev.1) that "in the last complete agricultural year, 1949/50, the net output of European agriculture was still 7 per cent below the average of the five years immediately preceding the war"; and table 45 of that document showed that Western Europe's imports of basic foodstuffs had decreased considerably. For example, in 1948, more than 17 million tons of bread grains had been imported, whilst in 1950 slightly less than 11½ million tons had been imported. It was true that those countries' imports of fats and oils, meat and milk products had increased, but many of those foodstuffs were so expensive that they could not be said to be items of popular consumption. The *Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East 1950* (E/CN.11/307) showed that the production of paddy rice in that region in 1950 had been 1.4 per cent less than average yearly production in the years preceding the Second World War (140 million tons compared with 142 million tons). Table 31 showed that the total production of cereals in the region had fallen from slightly more than 100 million tons a year in the years preceding the recent war to 94½ million tons in 1950. Table 32 showed that the total production of fats and oils in the region had fallen from an average of 8,235,000 tons in the years preceding the recent war to 7,440,000 tons in 1950. The report (E/CN.12/225) on trade between Latin America and Europe, prepared jointly by the Economic Commission for Latin America, the Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization, showed that average yearly *per capita* consumption of fats and oils in Western Europe, excluding the United Kingdom and Germany, had fallen from 26.3 kilogrammes in the years preceding the recent war to 24.4 kilogrammes in 1949, and that the average *per capita* figure for consumption of fats and oils for the whole of Western Europe had fallen from 41 kilogrammes per head before the war to 34 kilogrammes per head in 1950. That report also showed that the supplies of wheat available for domestic consumption in Latin America had fallen from 55.3 kilogrammes per head per year in the years 1934 to 1938 to 51.3 kilogrammes per head per year in the years 1946 to 1949. However, in the last few years, the position in Latin America had improved slightly; it was stated in the *Economic Survey of Latin America 1950* (E/CN.12/217) that "the decline recorded in agricultural produc-

tion *per capita* . . . was not detrimental to the basic diet of the Latin American population as compared with pre-war standards; on the contrary it is possible that their diet improved". It should be remembered that 90 per cent of food produced in the world was consumed in the country of production; that percentage was likely to increase, because in countries which had previously been large exporters of foodstuffs, such as Argentina, Australia and Uruguay, the domestic demand for food was growing and reducing the amount available for export. That meant that there was a danger that the amount of food available for meeting emergencies caused by earthquakes and other catastrophes would diminish considerably.

37. Those simple but tragic facts which he had stated made it necessary for the Council to take urgent action on the problem of food shortages. Decisive action on that problem was surely the best way in which the Council could comply with the responsibility laid upon it by Articles 55 and 60 of the Charter to "promote . . . higher standards of living". The problem could not be solved without effective international co-operation. Much of the Council's work—for example, its work on economic development of under-developed countries, land reform and restrictive business practices—would assist in solving the problem of world food shortages, but concerted large-scale international action was required to increase food production, improve food distribution and prevent food wastage throughout the world. Compared with the importance of the problem of world food shortages, the international action so far taken by FAO to help solve the problem was insignificant. Indeed, FAO's total expenditure on such action, including action under the expanded programme of technical assistance, amounted to less than 10 million dollars a year, a sum smaller than the amount spent on agricultural development by each of certain national institutions in the United States of America.

38. He would appeal to Member States, specially those which could play an important part in a great international drive against hunger, to make concrete proposals in the near future which could serve as a basis for energetic action. The Chilean delegation also hoped that FAO would intensify its activities to that end.

39. In addition to that effort to solve the chronic problem of world food shortages, emergency action was required to meet the crises due to adverse climatic conditions. They included the present crisis in Yugoslavia as a result of the worst harvest for a hundred years at a time when the country's agriculture had not fully recovered from the effects of the Second World War, and the present crises in the Far East, in particular in India, where millions of human beings were suffering from hunger. In 1949 there had been a cereals deficit in India of 3.7 million tons; that deficit was much greater at present; it was so great that there was a grave crisis in India. The courageous and decisive action taken by the Indian Government and the help provided by other countries had reduced the effects of the crisis; the United States of America had granted a loan for the purchase of 2 million tons of wheat; the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had already sent 80,000 tons of wheat; Canada

had sent 310,000 tons under the Colombo Plan, and other countries such as Australia, China and Thailand had granted India special facilities for obtaining wheat, rice and other foodstuffs. That action taken by individual governments deserved the highest praise; but it was also necessary that the United Nations, in compliance with Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter, should carefully consider means of organizing rapid and effective international co-operation every time that a similar emergency occurred. For since, as he had already explained, the quantity of foodstuffs available for export was tending to decrease, it was likely that similar emergencies would be more frequent in the future.

40. The original idea of the Chilean Government had been that the Council should recommend procedure for taking action in cases of emergency amounting to famine; therefore, in the draft resolution (E/L.236) which the Chilean delegation had submitted on 28 August, it had been suggested that the Director-General of FAO should take action in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Director-General of WHO, and the executive heads of other specialized agencies which could help overcome such emergencies. But the Chilean delegation had been informed that the United States Government, which was extremely interested in the world's food supplies and had taken the initial action resulting in the establishment of FAO, wished itself to study in the near future means of setting up emergency machinery for such crises. Consequently, the Chilean delegation had withdrawn its original draft resolution, and submitted the draft resolution (E/L.240) jointly with the delegation of the United States of America. By adopting that draft resolution, the Council would take note of the effective work of FAO in improving agricultural production and ask that Organization to keep "emerging food shortages in individual countries under continuous surveillance"; it would also take note of the existing food shortages, express appreciation of the manner in which certain countries had given assistance and recommend that, in the event of a famine in any region of the world, FAO should submit a report to the Council through the Secretary-General, so as to enable the Council to draw up a plan of action in co-operation with other governmental agencies and other organs of the United Nations. He hoped that the joint draft resolution would receive the unanimous support of all members of the Council and that it would prove to be merely the forerunner of much more energetic action to eliminate the growing and constant shortages of food in the world and to provide more effective help in cases of acute food shortage due to special circumstances.

41. Mr. ADARKAR (India) said he would first speak about the problem of food shortages as far as India was concerned. In the period before the Second World War, the net import of food grains into India had been comparatively small. However, in recent years, several factors had intervened to make the food situation increasingly unfavourable. India's population was increasing by about 4,200,000 per annum; India had lost certain important food-growing areas to Pakistan; the worldwide shortage of food supplies had affected India as well as other countries; but, added to all those factors,

India had suffered a series of unprecedented natural calamities in 1950 and 1951; the monsoon had failed over a very wide area and affected crop production in practically the whole of Bihar, parts of Madhya Pradesh, Hyderabad, Bombay, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh, which constituted the essential rice-belt of the country. The population affected in Bihar alone numbered more than 20 millions. The phenomenal floods following the earthquake in Assam in 1950 had caused heavy damage to crops and had turned Assam into a food-deficit area. The north-eastern monsoon had failed for the fourth year in succession in the southern districts of Madras, Mysore and Hyderabad and that had resulted in widespread loss of rice and millet crops. It was estimated that India's total cereal production available for consumption in 1951 was 5 million tons less than in 1950. It should be remembered that India's import requirements of food were negligible compared to her domestic production, which had been more or less stationary during the last decade. In the years 1940 to 1950, India's yearly production of cereals had varied between 41.9 million tons and 48.2 million tons; during the same period, India's yearly imports of cereals had varied between 0.8 million tons and 3.7 million tons.

42. The food deficit in 1951 had caused famine and near-famine conditions in various parts of India and the Government had had to deal with the situation with great speed and efficiency. With the co-operation of state governments severe rationing had been introduced in most urban and semi-urban areas. Its severity might be gauged from the fact that only 10 ounces of food grains had been allowed as the standard ration per person per day in rice-eating areas. The deficit had been mainly in the rice-eating areas of Bihar, Madras, Mysore, Travancore and Cochin, where it was difficult to switch over from rice to other cereals. The drastic system of rationing had been accompanied by an equally drastic system of procurement. In a democratic country like India, however, rationing and procurement, especially in deficit areas where the future was so uncertain, had had a tremendous psychological effect on farmers, who resisted official controls or pressure. They had not taken kindly to having to part with their small surpluses, and that attitude had caused grave administrative problems.

43. The Chilean representative had already referred to the assistance generously given to India in its hour of need. The Indian Government was extremely grateful to the United States for having sanctioned a loan of 2 million tons of wheat, as well as to China, the Soviet Union, Canada, Burma, Siam and Australia for various quantities of rice and wheat. He would, however, add that in almost every case the prices paid or payable had been commercial ones and, except in the case of one or two gifts, there had been little or no element of charity in those transactions. But the fact that Indian needs had been accorded priority had definitely improved the position for the time being.

44. The Indian Government fully realized that the food problem in the country could not be solved by ever-increasing imports. Long-term measures had been taken to improve internal availability by means of an integrated production scheme, the aim of which was to make the

country as nearly self-sufficient as possible, in regard both to food grains and to commercial crops such as cotton, jute, oil seeds, etc. During 1950/51, about 800,000 acres of fallow land had been brought under cultivation in accordance with that scheme, and about 1.7 million tons of additional food grains had been produced. Under the ten-year programme for land transformation, apart from hydro-electric works, the following measures would be gradually put in hand. All available funds and technical facilities would be concentrated on the 48 million irrigated acres capable of intensive cultivation. Ten million acres were to be reclaimed or brought under fresh cultivation. The land army volunteers would be aided by an auxiliary service which would be organized in at least 100,000 out of 5 million villages. A cattle protection drive was being organized through key village schemes and key farm schemes to provide 60,000 stud bulls in a year (viz., one-third of the country's total requirements) and to eradicate rinderpest. An afforestation campaign by means of which it was intended to plant 300 million trees and protect and develop forests was to become an integral part of the national life.

45. He would refer to the statement made about the food problem in India by the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), the Council of which had unanimously adopted the report of its Policy Committee (E/C.2/312). The Council had unanimously recommended to its member organizations that they render all possible assistance to India in order to mitigate the sufferings of its people. His Government was very grateful to the IFAP for its sympathy and for any action that might be undertaken in pursuance of its recommendations.

46. He would like to pay tribute to FAO and its Secretariat for the excellent work being done by the Organization in a great many domains. But, as the Chilean representative had rightly pointed out, FAO's activities on the problem of world food shortages had, comparatively speaking, not been sufficiently emphasized. The history of the problem had been set out in detail in the documents submitted to the Council, but it would seem that FAO's responsibilities in the problem had to some extent been taken over by the International Emergency Food Council. In the discussion on the world economic situation, the head of his delegation had already referred to that fact, not in order to criticize but to draw attention to the growing indifference of international authorities to the problem. The tendency had been general, and unfortunately the world's conscience had been silenced where famines in certain parts of the world were concerned, owing to a series of bumper crops in certain producing countries. That, however, was no justification either for weakening FAO or for refusing to approach the problem on a multilateral or international basis. It was now necessary to reinstate FAO as the principal international organization concerned with the fundamental problem of the shortage of food. There was no guarantee that food shortages would not recur in various parts of the world from time to time. It was clear that the problem of the world's food supply would become more and more difficult for a number of reasons. The reports submitted by FAO to the Council clearly

showed the shift of emphasis from food and agriculture to nutrition and dietetics. In that connexion, he would draw attention to the statement made in part I section 3 (b) of the draft programme of work in 1951 (E/2008/Add.2) and to the section in part II on appraisals of current changes in food supply and consumption, which showed that FAO was cutting down expenditure on world food studies. To all that FAO had its own answer. The issues were stated in unambiguous terms, in part I section 1:

"There was also a belief at the time of the Hot Springs Conference that political co-operation would be reinforced by co-operation at the economic level, that the world would be one world, economically speaking, which would permit the pursuit of common policies. It was, indeed, assumed during the immediate post-war years that the specialized agencies in the economic and social field were being created as vehicles through which nations could undertake concerted action, not merely interchange information. Instead of all this, the world has become divided—ideologically between East and West and financially between the dollar and the soft-currency areas. This makes it much harder to work toward freedom from want of food. FAO now has to specify which world needs more food and in which countries it would have to be produced to stand a change of finding a market where it is needed."

47. That was indeed a challenge which Member Governments of FAO and of the United Nations must accept.

48. An emergency organization as part of FAO, whose function it would be to keep under constant review the production of food crops all over the world and to deal with each situation as and when it arose, was even more necessary at the present time than it had been in 1946. Food-deficit countries had of course been making bilateral arrangements. India had concluded such agreements with eight countries, with some of which it had no regular trade in foodstuffs, with the result that the mechanism was subjected to a certain strain which could not be borne permanently. It should not be taken as axiomatic that bilateral arrangements were a basis on which serious and unforeseen crises could be solved. If the Council, with its specialized agencies, could not provide at least to some extent against famine conditions, it would fail in its primary duty.

49. His delegation was consequently prepared to support the joint draft resolution (E/L.240), which restated FAO's responsibilities in the problem of food shortages, although it would have preferred the Council to adopt the original Chilean draft resolution (E/L.236), paragraph 7 of which called for emergency action by FAO. Leisurely action was not suitable for famine. If, as proposed in the joint draft resolution, FAO was merely to submit reports, unnecessary delay would occur. It would seem to him preferable that emergency reports should be submitted by FAO directly to the President of the Council (and not to the Secretary-General for transmission to the Council) in order that he might sum up the situation and take the appropriate steps for action.

50. Turning to the constructive side of FAO's work, his delegation considered that the three programmes for

1951 outlined by the Director-General in section D) of the covering document (E/2008) had been well conceived in principle and should prove of positive value. The work of FAO was of the greatest importance to his country, which could take legitimate pride in the leading role it played in the problem of rice production through the international rice research centre at Cuttack. Indian scientists had also made great progress in research on sugar-cane and millet production and their work could be used by FAO to a greater extent. The sugar-cane and millet research stations could, with its aid, be considerably improved, and although the Indian Government had made no specific request on the subject, he would like to urge that the Indian contribution to research on food crops other than rice should not be ignored.

51. Some mention must be made of the technical assistance aspects of FAO's work. Those countries which had a permanent resident representative of the Technical Assistance Administration (TAA) had the advantage of having their requests passed on quickly. Since India was mainly an agricultural country and since agriculture was in the hands of the States and not of the federal authority, and since requests for technical assistance must emanate from the central authority, there was inevitably a time-lag in co-ordinating the requests of States and forwarding them to TAA or FAO. The presence of an official responsible for technical assistance activities in India or the whole South Asian region would undoubtedly assist the Indian Government to make greater use of the technical assistance programmes operated by FAO.

52. A problem which was particularly serious in India and to which reference must be made was that of soil exhaustion, few specific methods being at the present time available to deal with it. Experiments should be conducted on the spot and few countries offered better scope for such experiments than India.

53. Another matter which needed attention by some body such as the International Emergency Food Council was that of fertilizers. The comparatively large supply of fertilizers available in 1950 was available no longer.

54. Finally, he must state that his country was making very great efforts to improve agriculture and to solve the problems of food production. Two years previously, his Government had invited a former Director-General of FAO, Lord Boyd Orr, to visit India and give his advice. His Government looked forward to increasing co-operation with FAO with a view to becoming in due course entirely self-reliant as far as food supplies were concerned.

55. Mr. GONZALEZ SOSA (Mexico) associated himself with the congratulations tendered to FAO by the preceding speakers. He particularly wished to emphasize the fact that FAO had fully realized the necessity to co-ordinate its own activity with that of the other United Nations specialized agencies.

56. The Mexican Government welcomed the plans for international co-operation in Latin America, drawn up by the joint efforts of UNESCO, FAO, the Organization of American States and WHO. He hoped that the FAO offices set up at Santiago and at Rio de Janeiro

would play their part in the solution of problems at a regional level.

57. He further stressed that his Government was particularly interested in problems of nutrition and the improvement of agricultural methods. It was making every effort to improve the living conditions of its rural population, both as a matter of general policy, and in connexion with land reform.

58. For all those reasons, the Mexican delegation would vote for the draft resolution submitted by the Chilean and United States delegations (E/L.240).

59. Mr. ATWAR HUSAIN (Pakistan) said that his delegation had studied with attention the report (E/2008/Add.1) of the Director-General of FAO for 1949/50, as well as the draft programme of work for 1951 (E/2008/Add.2). It considered that the work of FAO was fundamental to all economic development, since, without a considerable improvement in the nutritional standards of the under-developed countries, progress in such fields as education, health and industrial development would be very difficult to achieve. In such under-developed countries as India and Pakistan the scope for improving agricultural output was so considerable that capital investment in agriculture was likely to bring quicker and more substantial returns than in any other field. The six-year development plan for Pakistan had been drawn up with that premise in mind. According to that plan, the proposed capital expenditure on agriculture would amount to 820 million rupees, or 32 per cent of the total capital investment of 2,600 million rupees for the plan as a whole.

60. His Government was very grateful to FAO for the work it had done and was doing in his country, and to which a number of references had been made in the Director-General's report (E/2008/Add.1), in connexion with water utilization and control, the problem of water-logging of soils, the development of a fisheries programme, and active collaboration in the Asian training-centre held in Lahore in 1950.

61. The Director-General's report listed, on pages 6 to 14, fifty different programmes of technical assistance; his Government was either directly or indirectly interested in most of them. But, in its view, certain programmes were fundamental to the development of under-developed countries and greater emphasis might with advantage be laid upon them. He would particularly mention the extension services, training-centres on agricultural and allied development projects, and the statistical training-centres. Long before FAO had been created, work on the government farms in the Indo-Pakistan sub-continent had conclusively shown that the yield of many crops could be very substantially increased, in many cases by more than 50 per cent, through the use of better seeds, fertilizers and modern methods which did not involve a considerable expenditure of capital. Agriculture in the sub-continent had, however, not been influenced by the technique developed in those experimental stations, because insufficient attention had been given to extension services. As FAO had rightly insisted, sound methods should be made known to farmers, foresters and fishermen, who often resisted progressive ideas because of

their ignorance and innate conservatism. His Government was consequently particularly anxious that the FAO extension services should be greatly developed and that governments should collaborate more actively in setting them up and using them.

62. Training-centres for agricultural and allied development projects similar to that in Lahore, and statistical training-centres of the type set up in New Delhi, Cairo and Paris, should make an important contribution to economic development. Unless development projects were formulated at the expert level, waste of effort and of resources would probably occur. The under-developed countries, particularly his own, lacked trained technical personnel able to formulate and correlate programmes of development. His Government had been particularly happy to note that a Latin American training-centre on agricultural programme planning was to be set up at Santiago in September 1951, and another such centre in Turkey. In his Government's view there should be many such centres; it was itself considering the establishment of a national training-centre with the co-operation of FAO.

63. In view of its multifarious activities and the ever-greater part that it was called upon to play in the field of economic development, FAO was certainly handicapped by a fixed budget of only 5 million dollars. The Director-General had pointed out in part I, section 2, of the draft programme of work for 1951 (E/2008/Add.2), that, if he "were at liberty to present a programme of the projects he felt he could effectively undertake, then undoubtedly his budget request would be not for 5 million dollars, still less for 4,200,000 dollars, but probably for at least 6 million dollars". It would be natural to expect a steady expansion of the resources of FAO, but, for the reasons given in the report, the Organization was having to plan its 1951 programme at a lower level of expenditure than in 1950. Thus the Director-General proposed various ways of retrenching which would undoubtedly have adverse effects on the work. FAO's financial resources compared unfavourably with those of several other specialized agencies—for instance, UNESCO—and his Government endorsed the Director-General's view that "if purposeful support were more forthcoming from governments, FAO could contribute a great deal more to the bettering of human welfare". It was to be hoped that Member Governments of FAO would appreciate the importance of its work and devise practical means for increasing its financial resources.

64. Turning to the joint draft resolution (E/L.240), he said that it was only too true that current world food supplies had not kept pace with population growth. As the Chilean representative had convincingly shown, production of food in many countries was still lower than it had been in the pre-war period. Consequently, the standard of nutrition was also definitely lower than it had been then, and the problem of food shortages was very acute in some areas.

65. He must express his delegation's gratitude to the Indian representative for the detailed account he had given of the food situation in his country. The Pakistani Government viewed the problem of food shortage in

India with very great sympathy. It had been able to send a substantial amount of cereals to India in 1950, and arrangements had been made to supply India with food under the inter-Dominion trade agreement negotiated in March 1951. But the crux of the problem certainly was that the total food production in the Indo-Pakistan sub-continent had not kept pace with the growth of the population, and the situation could be solved only by long-term measures to increase supplies. As the Indian representative had emphasized, FAO could undoubtedly make a very important contribution to the energetic efforts being made by the Indian Government.

66. While appreciating the reasons which had moved the Chilean and United States delegations to submit their joint draft resolution (E/L.240), he must point out that it was very modest in scope. No new duties were thereby imposed upon FAO. It had in any case kept existing or emerging food shortages in individual countries under continuous surveillance, and had maintained its periodic studies of such problems. It would certainly be appropriate for FAO to submit reports in instances of pending critical food shortages or famine, not only to its own Council and Conference, but also to the Economic and Social Council. His delegation would support the joint draft resolution.

67. Mr. HUYBRECHTS (Belgium) stated that he would confine himself to a few observations on the subject of the documents submitted to the Council by the Director-General of FAO.

68. The Director-General, in his report (E/2008/Add.1), which covered five years of work done by the FAO, had mentioned no fewer than fifty cases of successful results achieved by his Organization. While those achievements differed in value, they were nevertheless impressive by reason both of the number and variety of the problems involved. That report also showed that FAO had been mindful of the urgency of regional and local needs, that it had proved able to adapt itself to circumstances, which differed from region to region, and had succeeded in overcoming a large number of difficulties.

69. The Belgian delegation appreciated those achievements and considered the work done by the Organization to be both positive and encouraging. While production had been improved thanks to scientific research and new methods, and also to the formation of national and international bodies, whose work had benefited from progress made in agricultural and biological science, agriculture nevertheless remained a prey to the vagaries of the market. As the Director-General had pointed out in his report, there was often a lack of balance between agricultural and industrial development. Furthermore, certain agricultural areas were unable to dispose of their produce, because of the lack of foreign exchange in the case of importing countries. In that connexion, therefore, FAO could play its part in stabilizing the market and, to that end, give the benefit of its technical assistance to the under-developed countries. The work that had so far been performed was still in its initial stages, and FAO would have to continue that work for many years yet, if undernourished humanity were to be effectively relieved.

70. His delegation considered that there was yet another task confronting FAO—namely, to improve the utilization and exploitation of available world resources. The introduction of certain structural reforms would enable the Organization to accomplish that task more effectively.

71. In that connexion, he pointed out that, although the documentation published by FAO was abundant, its scientific value was perhaps not in proportion to its volume. Thus FAO had perhaps been more concerned to disseminate statistics than always to make an appreciable contribution to technical progress. The Belgian Government had already stated its views on that subject and it would be glad to see FAO publish regular bulletins on technical problems of agriculture: for example, on the results of its technical and scientific researches on plant diseases. FAO should endeavour, within the limits of its budget, to ensure wide dissemination of the results of its investigations among interested circles. The Belgian delegation was aware of the difficulties, which were due, in particular, to the fact that countries did not all have the same facilities for publishing information. Hence it applauded certain action taken in that field by FAO. It did not wish, however, that economic and statistical research should be given priority over technical research, since those two types of research should be complementary. In the opinion of the Belgian delegation, FAO should devote a larger proportion of its budget to research work as a whole, though that part of its programme devoted to effective action should not be allowed to suffer.

72. The Belgian delegation appreciated the spirit of collaboration underlying relations between FAO, the United Nations and the other specialized agencies. The documentary and technical work jointly carried out by FAO and certain technical committees of the Economic Commission for Europe, the work undertaken by the experts appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in pursuance of the resolutions on technical assistance to under-developed countries, and the collaboration between FAO and WHO, should be specially mentioned. At that stage in the development of international organizations, such an endeavour to collaborate should be continued more vigorously than ever. The Belgian Government considered it most important and regretted that certain specialized agencies seemed to show an opposite tendency.

73. He hoped that FAO would systematically continue its efforts on a regional basis and assist governments to carry out the numerous recommendations it had formulated. If governments had not shown all the alacrity that could be desired in implementing those recommendations, it might be because FAO had been unable to adapt itself sufficiently to regional conditions.

74. The Belgian delegation also regretted that, although it had been in existence for five years, FAO's activities had not resulted in the conclusion of any international convention in the technical field. That, it considered, was a gap which should be filled. It noted, with some concern, that FAO had not, in spite of its humanitarian aims, succeeded in arousing public interest and had not met with the necessary comprehension in agricultural circles. It considered that the reason why the Inter-

national Labour Organisation had been more successful in that direction was to be found in its structure. That was why the Belgian Government felt that further consideration should be given to the suggestion it had made at the time of the conference held at Quebec, that producers and consumers should be directly associated with FAO's activities.

75. In conclusion, he wished to emphasize that his remarks were not in any way intended to minimize the services rendered by FAO. That body was faced with a stupendous task in a world where a constantly increasing population, and the famine existing in several areas, gave rise to problems of exceptional gravity.

76. Mr. BEITH (United Kingdom) paid tribute to the work of FAO, which had made steady progress and had tackled practical tasks. It was noteworthy that in 1950 FAO had received a number of contributions which had been in arrears over a period of years. The fact that those contributions had been paid was a credit to governments as well as a sign of the value placed on FAO's work, but he would stress that it was very difficult for an organization to budget when it was uncertain of the contributions upon which it could rely. His delegation also wished to commend FAO for assimilating its financial regulations to those applied by the United Nations.

77. The expanded programme of technical assistance made very great demands on FAO. It had met them satisfactorily and speedily, particularly in providing experts for field work. An examination of the requests for assistance received by FAO showed how wise the Council had been to give so important a role to FAO in the expanded programme of technical assistance. Indeed, that role could even have been greater.

78. The move of the Organization from Washington to Rome had been carried out smoothly, the work continuing without hindrance. On that score gratitude was also due to the Italian Government.

79. He welcomed the establishment by FAO of a working party on the programme of work and associated long-term policies. Since the working party's report was under consideration at the present time, he would only say that that kind of stock-taking was very useful to international organizations and express the hope that governments would study the report with special attention in order that it might be really useful to the next Conference of FAO.

80. As for the joint draft resolution (E/L.240), he would with regret have to abstain from voting upon it, not because his Government dissociated itself from its aims, but because the competent departments in his Government had not had time to consider its implications. The problem of food shortages and famine in many regions had originally formed a separate item on the agenda, and it had only recently been decided to consider it at the same time as item 42.

81. Mr. LUBIN (United States of America) said that he would first deal with certain facets of the work of FAO and would then discuss the problem of food short-

ages and famine in connexion with that Organization's work in increasing agricultural productivity.

82. Turning first to the covering document (E/2008), with special reference to the question of priorities and concentration of effort, he commended FAO for adjusting its programme for 1951 to its anticipated income and for taking effective steps to develop future programme priorities in the proposed 1952/53 programme of work.

83. Special praise must be reserved for the four principles to be applied in planning programmes in the immediate future, as drawn up by FAO's working party on the programme of work and associated long-term problems. The first principle gave top priority to such activities as would increase supplies of food for alleviating hunger. At its twelfth session, in June 1951, the Council of FAO had emphasized the continued need of action in that field. But, however great the attention given to that problem, he was sure that FAO would not fail to maintain its long-term activities, which were essential in assisting governments to attain a more stable position in food production. The third principle was also unimpeachable, since it stressed the need for establishing essential services such as agricultural education and extension services and agricultural credit by governments.

84. Although the fixing of priorities was essential for the effective working of FAO, governments also must take advantage of the services offered. The responsibility of Member Governments for developing, maintaining and implementing programmes to which high priority had been given must always be borne in mind.

85. FAO should not allow its economic and statistical work to be reduced below the present level. It should maintain and improve the regular statistical series and add such other series as were needed, in so far as funds permitted. The FAO series on prices needed to be considerably expanded, and the same criticism applied in an even greater degree to statistics in the rural welfare field. Current trade figures should also be expanded to show, in greater detail, the movements of agricultural products by origin and destination. FAO should continue, and, if possible, increase its assistance to Member Governments in developing and improving their statistical reporting systems. Such assistance should be provided not only by making technical experts available, but also by increasing the number and scope of statistical training-schools of the type opened in Latin America and in the Near and Far East.

86. With regard to agricultural extension and education, he would commend FAO for proposing to give special consideration at its next Conference to means by which agricultural extension and education services could be expanded by Member Governments. He had already suggested that the development of such services was of great importance in increasing agricultural productivity. It might be good if governments were to give top priority to that matter in their legislative and administrative programmes.

87. FAO had a substantial contribution which it could and should make to UNESCO's current and proposed expanded programme of fundamental education. The representative of FAO had offered the Organization's full

co-operation to UNESCO in developing the agricultural aspects of the latter's fundamental education programme and in supplying agricultural personnel for it.

88. FAO should also be commended for its co-operation with many other international organizations. He would particularly mention its co-operation with the United Nations in the collection of economic and statistical data; with WHO on nutrition and malaria control; with the Organization of American States, for example at the Montevideo Conference; with the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences in joint programmes of agricultural extension services and livestock improvement; and with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development by the continued interchange of information at the staff level, participation in joint missions, joint sponsorship of training-centres and other means. The working methods used by the FAO/WHO Joint Committee on Nutrition and the FAO/ECE Timber Committee might well be applied by other agencies which had related fields of interest, since they yielded the maximum co-ordination of effort and avoided overlapping and duplication.

89. FAO had also co-operated with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in assisting governments to develop supplies of safe milk for children and in helping them to raise the level of nutrition in various areas. His delegation hoped that, within the resources available to those two agencies, increased emphasis would be placed on the nutritional aspect of child-care work in accordance with the criteria established by the Executive Board of UNICEF. Such efforts were particularly important at the present time when UNICEF was concentrating on programmes for aid to children in under-developed countries.

90. He approved FAO's decision to hold biennial conferences and its efforts to streamline its conference procedure so as to produce the most effective action within a minimum of time and without excessive secretariat services. It had endeavoured to limit the number of inter-governmental meetings.

91. Turning to the joint draft resolution (E/L.240), he would point out that its authors had purposely linked the problem of food shortages and famine in many regions with the reports of FAO. The latter had worked hard and effectively to assist governments in raising agricultural productivity in the food-deficit areas of the world, and it was appropriate that those efforts should be noted with reference to the joint draft resolution.

92. All shared the desire to help relieve distress from food shortages and famine. A number of major food-exporting countries, including his own, had played an important role in helping to relieve food shortages and famine in many areas of the world. Such assistance had been rendered both on the governmental and on the private level. Altogether, excluding contributions made by the American Red Cross, some fifty American voluntary agencies had contributed over 1,247 million dollars in cash and goods, since the outbreak of the Second World War, to help alleviate human suffering abroad. Direct assistance had been given by the United

States to countries suffering from food shortages, among them Yugoslavia and India.

93. Many governments, including his own, had generously contributed to international organizations which had given food relief to suffering peoples in many areas. UNICEF had provided governments with protective foods such as butter, skim and whole milk, cod-liver oil, margarine, meats and fish, grains, rice and dried fruits, to supplement the diet of mothers and children, at a total cost of 79 million dollars. The United States Department of Agriculture had supplied UNICEF with 180 million pounds of skim milk and cheddar cheese at nominal prices, thus enabling it to save approximately 19 million dollars.

94. Reference should be made under the same heading to the United Nations Emergency Relief Programme for Korea, established as a result of the appeals made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in June and July 1950 and in pursuance of resolutions adopted by the Security Council (S/1657). The United States Government was proud to have shared in that international undertaking. The needs of the Korean people for all types of relief had been and continued to be both urgent and great. Food supplies had been placed high in the priority scale of requirements. Among its first requests the Unified Command had asked for barley, rice, sugar and other staple foods. The response had been quick and generous. Up to the present time, some twenty countries, including many represented on the Council, had supplied, or had pledged themselves to supply, various kinds of foodstuffs for the Korean people. The donations included, for instance, such important contributions as 20,000 metric tons of rice from the Philippines, 5,000 tons of wheat from Pakistan, 6,000 tons of salt from the United Kingdom, rice and salt from China, sugar from Belgium, pulses from Mexico. Other countries had promised funds for the purchase of food supplies. Various specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and private voluntary agencies had also participated in the effort to meet emergency food needs.

95. Private and public activities of that kind were of tremendous help and should be encouraged, since they brought the individual citizen into direct contact with the problems of other peoples. But those schemes of assistance did not suffice to solve the problem, since they generally tackled it only after it had arisen. Measures of a more radical nature were required to provide an effective long-term solution to food shortages. In many cases the necessary increase in food production could be achieved by the application of modern agricultural knowledge. The programme of technical assistance and the United States Point Four Programme could be of considerable help in achieving such an increase. But vigorous action by the food-deficit countries themselves

was also needed. Agricultural advisory services should be set up in order that modern agricultural knowledge might be made available to the people. The importance of that factor in relieving food shortage conditions could not be over-emphasized. The representative of FAO had rightly pointed out that governments should give more attention to the problem of increasing their agricultural output. It was a truism that the only way of meeting the problem of food shortages was to increase food production. FAO had rightly given high priority to technical agricultural activities designed to achieve increased food production. The joint draft resolution noted that fact and he would wish to commend FAO for the progress it had made in promoting international co-operation in certain technical fields of food production.

96. He had in mind such activities as the International Plant Production Convention and the organization of regional and international bodies to promote the application of scientific and technological information designed to increase the production of rice and fish. The proposed regional efforts to combat locusts also came under that heading.

97. He would also stress the important role that FAO could play in the field of land reform. As the Chilean representative had pointed out, land reform could contribute to increased food output. FAO should help focus attention on the urgent need for land reform in many areas, both in its Conference and at regional and technical meetings. It could disseminate information on what was being done and could assist governments in undertaking specific measures.

98. Appendix B, entitled "Current Situation and Prospects of Food and Agriculture", in the report of the Council of FAO at its twelfth session, held in June 1951, drew the attention of governments to the fact that, although the total food supply was somewhat larger in the present year than in 1950, the *per capita* distribution in major deficit areas of Asia and the Near East was lower. The report dwelt in some detail on the food-supply situation in various parts of the world. His delegation believed that such studies could play an important part in calling to the attention of world public opinion specific instances of food shortage and famine in order that the problem might be examined realistically and concrete measures considered.

99. The joint draft resolution was intended more closely to co-ordinate the work of FAO and the Council in increasing food production throughout the world and in particular, in ensuring a closer scrutiny by both bodies of existing or emerging food shortages or famine situations in individual countries. Its adoption would ensure that increased attention was given to the appropriate measures for alleviating food deficits and famine.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.