

United Nations
ECONOMIC
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Nations Unies
CONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
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MASTER FILE

RESTRICTED

E/CN.1/W.63
23 May 1949

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Fourth session

Agenda Item 5 (E/CN.1/64/Rev.1)

NOTE PRESENTED BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FOOD
AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION IN CONNEXION WITH
PARAGRAPH 11 OF THE RAPPORTEUR'S DRAFT REPORT
(E/CN.1/W.56)

1. It is noted that as passed by the Commission, paragraph 11 refers to paragraph 24 of the Report of the Sub-Commission on Development as meeting with the approval of the Commission. Paragraph 24 suggests that even though other continuing studies are under way, "appropriate bodies in the Secretariat should undertake the study of the possibilities of inter-governmental commodity agreements". It is assumed that the Commission in endorsing this proposal had no wish to duplicate work already under way.
2. This matter is already under study, by the Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements, and for agricultural commodities by the Food and Agricultural Organization. A special FAO Working Party of representatives of governments has given exhaustive attention to this matter during recent months, has had before it a series of reports on commodity situations of more than 250 pages, and has submitted a report on the subject to the Food and Agriculture Council.
3. The Food and Agriculture Organization wishes to ask the Commission to reconsider its endorsement of paragraph 24 of the Sub-Commission's report. FAO assumes that the United Nations Secretariat would, if directed to undertake this work, do so in co-operation with the competent specialized agencies and other United Nations organs. However, FAO questions whether the recommendation as incorporated in paragraph 24 of the Sub-Commission's report has been sufficiently well thought through or stated to justify the flat endorsement now given it. (Paragraph 11 of the Commission's draft report).
