

United Nations

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UNRESTRICTED

**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

**ASSEMBLEE
GENERALE**

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16 October 1946

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

WORLD SHORTAGE OF CEREALS

ACTION TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE RESOLUTION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 14 FEBRUARY 1946

(Item 21 of the Provisional Agenda for
the Second Part of the First Session)

Report of the Secretary-General

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

OCT 21 1946

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

CONFERENCE, SECOND SESSION
COPENHAGEN

September 5, 1946

Sir:

With reference to the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 14 February, 1946 concerning the world shortage of cereals, I have the honor to transmit the Report of the Special Meeting on Urgent Food Problems and the latest World Food Appraisal for 1946-47.

The Report of the Special Meeting includes an appraisal of the world food situation and prospects, as they appeared at that time, together with the constructive recommendations adopted by that meeting.

The later Appraisal represents the best forecast that can be made on the basis of the information available to the Food and Agriculture Organization as of September 2, 1946. This appraisal has been submitted to the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization, which is now in session, where it will be examined by Member Governments. In the event that any significant changes are required as a result of this examination I shall inform you accordingly.

It would now appear that, largely as a result of recent favorable weather in some areas, the prospects for the immediate future are somewhat better than they were at the time of the previous meeting of the General Assembly. Some of the improvement which has been achieved can be attributed to the action taken by Governments since the meeting of the General Assembly. The Special Meeting on Urgent Food Problems contributed to this improvement by providing an international basis for the action required. Governments have adopted many of the measures recommended by that meeting for the conservation and expansion of supplies. The establishment of an International Emergency Food Council, which had been recommended by the meeting, has now been accomplished and the Council is now in operation with 24 Member Governments already participating in its activities.

Although there has been some improvement in the availability of supplies and in the manner of their distribution it nevertheless appears probable that needs during 1946-47 will exceed supplies of bread grains by eight million tons. This deficit is only twenty percent less than that estimated shortly after the meeting of the General Assembly. A gap of this magnitude will continue to require the exertion of every effort by all Governments, nationally and through international agencies, if these wants are to be satisfied and if a serious situation is to be avoided.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration

Mr. Trygve Lie,
Secretary-General
United Nations.

Signed: John Boyd Orr
Director-General