

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Recommendations—

1. That the permanent organization recommended in Resolution II—

- (a) Investigate the possibility of the development by the nations of the world of national standards of minimum consumption of certain non-food agricultural and marine products, taking into account the varying climatic and other relevant conditions of the different countries ;
- (b) Arrange at an early date for comprehensive studies of the probable future capacity of the world to consume specific agricultural and marine products in this group, taking into account in this connection the probable effect of synthetic and other substitute products ;
- (c) Give special study to the development of means by which regions which are not well adapted to the production of food may share in a world-wide improvement of nutrition in keeping with the purpose of the Conference.

XII. CHANGES IN PRODUCTION IN THE SHORT-TERM PERIOD

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Recommendations—

1. That, as a first step in overcoming the general shortage of food, every effort should be made by countries whose agriculture can be expanded in the short-term period, so long as this is required and so far as the conditions of individual countries require or permit, to increase the acreage under crops for direct human consumption and even to hold back the rebuilding of depleted live-stock herds—essential though this rebuilding will ultimately be—as well as the production of other crops which compete for acreage with essential foods ;

2. That countries whose agriculture has been impaired should, in the immediate post-war period, utilize to the full their agricultural resources to bring about a rapid increase in food-production, even if this involves a departure from the use of the resources which in the long run will be required, and even if it delays a return to production policies which are desirable for technical, economic, or nutritional reasons—for instance, in Europe there may need to be a concentration in the first years on vegetables, bread grains, and other products where production can mature quickly and which yield more calories per acre than live-stock ;

3. That, pursuant to the above purpose, countries which have been producing more than normal output because of freedom from enemy action should—

(a) In the short run maintain such production ;

(b) Whenever possible, increase production further, provided transport and the means of production, &c., are available, to assist in meeting abnormal demands.

4. That, taking into consideration that the degree of shortage of foodstuffs which will develop after the war will depend upon the course of the war and on the harvests, it will be necessary during the period from the present until the termination of the war for each of the nations which has escaped enemy invasion to continue to stress the necessity of production of those products which are required by other nations during the war, and at the same time to produce sufficient quantities of products for home consumption, subject to the requirements of the war effort ;

5. That every effort should be made now and immediately after the war by countries in a position to do so, to expand the production of farm machinery and implements, fertilizers, and other materials, including improved seeds, vital to the expansion of food production, and to co-operate in making these materials available to the agricultural producing countries, so far as the exigencies of the war permit.

XIII. CO-ORDINATION IN THE SHORT-TERM PERIOD

WHEREAS :

1. It is the consensus of the Conference that, despite all efforts to increase production, supplies of essential foodstuffs and certain other agricultural and marine products and of the necessary instruments of production, such as fertilizers and machinery, and the means of international transportation will all be inadequate to meet basic requirements in the transition period, which may extend for several years after the cessation of hostilities ;

2. It is essential for the preservation of life to secure, through equitable distribution, the maximum advantage from such supplies as may be made available ;

3. It is in the interest of producers and consumers alike to avoid social and economic ills due to monopolistic practices or to violent fluctuations arising from unrestrained competition for inadequate supplies, in the prices of food, the instruments of production, and other necessities, including industrial goods ;

4. It is in the common interest of all that agricultural production be soundly re-established and expanded with all possible speed in countries now temporarily occupied by the enemy as soon as they have been liberated ;

5. These objectives can be achieved only by the concerted action of Governments in the stimulation of production and in the allocation of supplies ;

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Recommendations—

1. That the Governments and authorities here represented, for so long after the war as shortages continue, affirm the principle of mutual responsibility and co-ordinated action for—

(a) The increased production of necessary foodstuffs and other essential agricultural and marine products by all possible means, subject only to the exigencies of war, in each country where such expansion can be accomplished economically, either now or in the future ;

(b) The transportation, distribution, and utilization of such products ;