

FAO is designed essentially to provide a focal point for the collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of information concerning all aspects of the production, distribution and consumption of food. It may also promote and recommend national or international action and, on request, it may furnish technical assistance to nations that are themselves unable to carry out the recommendations of the Organization.

FAO has not within itself power to enforce the putting into effect all the policies it may consider to be desirable as a means of eliminating freedom from want throughout the world. It is limited to advice and recommendation, but this restriction should not unduly limit its ability to give service. It simply means that the Member Nations must maintain the same spirit of co-operation and sincerity that prevailed at the first meeting of the Organization. No organization of this kind can achieve its goal without the wholehearted working together of the Member Nations. Once a staff of experts and specialists has been assembled, the first activity of FAO will undoubtedly be an appraisal of the world situation from both the production and the consumption side on the basis of data already available and secured by special surveys where necessary. The information so assembled will be made available to all Member Nations. This information will include not only basic statistics, but all scientific knowledge including that of biologists, technologists, nutritionists and scientists in other related fields.

It should be clearly understood that while FAO is vitally concerned with the current food situation arising out of the War, it is not a relief organization. Nevertheless, it must concern itself with the operations of UNRRA and lend every assistance to that Organization.

The principal work of the Conference was carried on under Commission "A" which was responsible for the development of policies and programs of FAO, and Commission "B" entrusted with the consideration of problems of organization and administration.

Report of Commission "A".—Under Commission "A" six committees were created. In an introductory statement to the report of this Commission the Chairman said: "Whereas the various services had been outlined in general terms in the Final Act of the Hot Springs Conference and in the reports of the Interim Commission this time they have been particularized into a series of concrete and realistic proposals. It had been agreed that FAO should collect and disseminate information, should give advice and organize missions of technical experts, should make studies and recommend action to other international agencies and to governments. This time the questions answered are what information? What advice? What studies? What recommendations?"

Nutrition and Food Management.—The primary objective of the nations united in the Food and Agriculture Organization is to raise levels of nutrition throughout the world, to ensure not only that all peoples are freed from the danger of starvation and famine but that they obtain the kind of diet essential for health. It is the responsibility of Member Nations to take the steps necessary for attaining this objective, and the responsibility of FAO to assist them by all possible means. In the international sphere, the work of FAO in the field of nutrition must be closely integrated with that of other international organizations concerned with health, social and economic problems, and the welfare of industrial and other workers.