

Activities.—FAO acts as an instrument of collaboration in the effort to control pests and disease. Throughout the Middle East, international control and prevention measures, co-ordinated by FAO, are aimed at controlling locusts. The European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, created in 1952 under FAO auspices, is working toward the complete eradication of the disease. Another field for greater international action is the development of river basins and watersheds affecting several countries. Along with other UN agencies, FAO is studying the land and water development potentialities of the Mekong Valley at the request of the Governments of Viet Nam, Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand. Studies are being made in respect of fishing boats and fish harbours. The items mentioned are only a few illustrations of the scope of the technical activities of the FAO.

The FAO functions as a co-ordinating centre for the collection and dissemination of scientific and technical information in the field of atomic energy and of the possible contribution of atomic energy to the progress of agriculture and related industries. The FAO and the International Atomic Energy Agency have signed an agreement which affords the official basis for co-operation between these two organizations.

The Organization has undertaken a Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign to focus public attention on a world-wide scale upon the continuing problem of hunger and to mobilize national and international effort toward its solution. The Campaign will be a continuing activity up to 1965. The Campaign will consider not only ways of increasing agricultural production and income and of raising buying power for food but also will recognize the need for industrial development so as to increase purchasing power and ability to buy food, especially in the less developed countries. The improvement of nutrition also would cover not only the problem of providing more and better food but the social implications of better nutrition on the position of various groups such as farmers and fishermen.

Commodity Review.—The work of the FAO Conference, the Council and the Committee on Commodity Problems in the commodity field may be summarized as follows: (1) making a periodic review of the commodity situation; (2) providing a forum for discussing problems, exchanging views and studying national policies; (3) sponsoring specialized commodity study groups; (4) reviewing proposals for action and making recommendations; (5) publishing reports on commodity policies and developments; (6) co-operating with other international commodity agencies in the preparation and review of commodity situation reports and in the consideration of proposals for action programs.

A major activity is the study of the problem of commodity surpluses by the Subcommittee on Surplus Disposal located in Washington, which is concerned with ways and means of using surpluses to establish national food reserves and/or to finance economic development in under-developed countries. Special aspects of the surplus problem are also the concern of other FAO commodity groups, such as the Group on Grains which has undertaken study of the causes of the present imbalance in the wheat and coarse grains situation, and the commodity groups concerned with rice, copra, cocoa, dairy products and citrus fruits.

Canada and the FAO.—Canada's interest in the FAO began with the Hot Springs Conference. The United Nations Interim Commission on Food and Agriculture was established by this Conference and was headed by a Canadian. It laid the groundwork for the first FAO Conference which was held at Quebec City in 1945. In the same year the Canadian Parliament passed the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Act which provided for the carrying into effect of the "Agreement for a Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations between Canada and certain other Nations and Authorities". This Act approves the Constitution of the Food and Agriculture Organization and empowers the Governor in Council to make such appointments, establish such offices, make such Orders in Council, and do such things as appear necessary for carrying out the provisions of the Constitution.