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XXVIII. United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture

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Text of the Final Act

The Governments of Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia; the French Representatives; the Governments of Great Britain, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippine Commonwealth, Poland, Union of South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Yugoslavia;

Having accepted the invitation extended to them by the Government of the United States of America to be represented at a United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture;

Appointed their respective delegates,

The final Plenary Session was held on June 3, 1943. As a result of the deliberations, as recorded in the minutes and reports of the respective Committees and Sections and of the Plenary Sessions, the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture approved the following declaration, resolutions, and recommendations.

I. DECLARATION

This Conference, meeting in the midst of the greatest war ever waged, and in full confidence of victory, has considered the world problems of food and agriculture and declares its belief that the goal of freedom from want of food, suitable and adequate for the health and strength of all peoples, can be achieved.

1. The first task is to complete the winning of the war and to deliver millions of people from tyranny and from hunger. During the period of critical shortage in the aftermath of war, freedom from hunger can be achieved only by urgent and concerted efforts to economize consumption, to increase supplies and distribute them to the best advantage.

2. Thereafter we must equally concert our efforts to win and maintain freedom from fear and freedom from want. The one cannot be achieved without the other.

3. There has never been enough food for the health of all people. This is justified neither by ignorance nor by the harshness of nature. Production of food must be greatly expanded; we now have knowledge of the means by which this can be done. It requires imagination and firm will on the part of each government and people to make use of that knowledge.

4. The first cause of hunger and malnutrition is poverty. It is useless to produce more food unless men and nations provide the markets to absorb it. There must be an expansion of the whole world economy to provide the purchasing power sufficient to maintain an adequate diet for

all. With full employment in all countries, enlarged industrial production, the absence of exploitation, an increasing flow of trade within and between countries, an orderly management of domestic and international investment and currencies, and sustained internal and international economic equilibrium, the food which is produced can be made available to all people.

5. The primary responsibility lies with each nation for seeing that its own people have the food needed for life and health; steps to this end are for national determination. But each nation can fully achieve its goal only if all work together.

6. We recommend to our respective governments and authorities the study and adoption of the findings and recommendations of this Conference and urge the early concerted discussion of the related problems falling outside the scope of this Conference.

7. The first steps toward freedom from want of food must not await the final solution of all other problems. Each advance made in one field will strengthen and quicken advance in all others. Work already begun must be continued. Once the war has been won decisive steps can be taken. We must make ready now.

II. INTERIM AND PERMANENT COMMISSIONS FOR CARRYING OUT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

WHEREAS:

1. Freedom from want is difficult to achieve without concerted action among all like-minded

nations to expand and improve production, to increase employment, to raise levels of consumption, and to establish greater freedom in international commerce;

2. The successful carrying out of the recommendations of the Conference in the field of production, distribution, and consumption of food and other agricultural products in the post-war period will be the most important prerequisite for the achievement of freedom from want, and requires the creation by the governments and authorities here represented of a permanent organization in the field of food and agriculture; therefore

*The United Nations Conference on Food and
Agriculture*

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the governments and authorities here represented recognize and embody in a formal declaration or agreement the obligation to their respective peoples and to one another, henceforth to collaborate in raising levels of nutrition and standards of living of their peoples, and to report to one another on the progress achieved;

2. That the governments and authorities here represented establish a permanent organization in the field of food and agriculture; and

RESOLVES:

1. That in order that every practicable step may be taken to attain these and the other appropriate objectives set forth in the declaration and specific recommendations of the Conference, an Interim

Commission for carrying out the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture be established;

2. That each of the governments and authorities here represented be entitled to designate a representative on the Interim Commission, and that the Interim Commission be installed in Washington not later than July 15, 1943;

3. That the Interim Commission perform its work with due regard to the exigencies of the war, through such form of organization and personnel as it may deem appropriate; and formulate regulations covering its expenditures and submit to the member governments and authorities a budget and allocation of quota contributions;

4. That the functions of the Interim Commission be to formulate and recommend for consideration by each member government or authority:

(a) A specific plan for a permanent organization in the field of food and agriculture;

(b) The formal declaration or agreement referred to in the first recommendation, in which each participant shall recognize its obligation:

(I) To raise the levels of nutrition and standards of living of its own people;

(II) To improve the efficiency of agricultural production and distribution;

(III) To cooperate, so far as may be possible, with other nations for the achievement of these ends;

(IV) To undertake to submit periodically to the other participants, through the permanent organization, reports on the action taken and the progress achieved toward these ends;

(c) Such proposals or reports as are necessary to give effect to the recommendations of the Conference;

5. That in the preparation of a plan for the permanent organization the Interim Commission give full consideration to the following:

(a) The relation of the permanent organization to, and methods of associating it with, other institutions, national as well as international, which already exist or which may hereafter be established, in the field of food and agriculture and in related scientific, economic, and other fields;

(b) Provision for membership in the permanent organization, in due course, of governments not represented on the Interim Commission;

6. That in considering the functions and duties to be assigned to the permanent organization the Interim Commission take into account:

(a) The promotion of scientific, technological, social, and economic research;

(b) The collection and dissemination of information and provision for the exchange of services;

(c) The submission to member governments and authorities of recommendations for action with regard to the following:

(I) Nutrition;

(II) Standards of consumption of food and other agricultural products;

(III) Agricultural production, distribution, and conservation;

(IV) Statistics and economic studies in the field of agriculture and food, including the study of the relation of agriculture to world economy;

(v) Education and extension work in the field of food and agriculture;

(vi) Agricultural credit;

(vii) Problems of agricultural population and farm labor;

7. That the Interim Commission further consider the desirability of assigning to the permanent organization functions in the field of:

(a) Development of agricultural resources and orientation of production, where necessary;

(b) Agricultural commodity arrangements;

(c) Agricultural cooperative movements;

(d) Land tenure;

(e) Other subjects on which recommendations have been made by the Conference;

8. That the Interim Commission also consider the initiation of preliminary statistical investigations and research into the problems with which the permanent organization will deal;

9. That the Interim Commission be deemed to have been dissolved when the permanent organization has been established;

10. That the Government of the United States of America be invited to take whatever preliminary action may be necessary for the establishment of the Interim Commission after the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture has completed its work.

III. IMPROVEMENT OF NATIONAL DIETS

The United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture

Having reviewed the information submitted by the several delegations on consumption deficien-

cies and the relation of food to health throughout the world and being deeply impressed by the dominate role played by adequate food in the reduction of sickness and death rates and the maintenance of health,

DECLARES:

1. That the first essential of a decent standard of living is the provision to all men of those primary necessities which are required to promote freedom from disease, and for the attainment of good health;

2. That the most fundamental of these necessities is adequate food which should be placed within the reach of all men in all lands within the shortest possible time;

3. That ample evidence has been presented revealing the existence of malnutrition in every country, with its inevitable consequences of preventable ill health; and

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the governments and authorities here represented:

(a) Immediately undertake the task of increasing the food resources and improving the diets of their people in accordance with the principles and objectives outlined in the findings of the Conference, and declare to their respective peoples and to other governments and authorities here represented their intention of so doing;

(b) Undertake periodically to report to one another through the permanent organization recommended in Resolution II on the state of

their national nutrition and on the steps being taken for its improvement.

IV. DIETS OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

WHEREAS:

1. There are special needs of vulnerable groups, such as pregnant and nursing women, infants, pre-school and school children, adolescents, workers, and individuals receiving low incomes;

2. Families with numerous children in low-income groups are particularly vulnerable;

3. Social, economic, and health measures of various kinds are or should be provided for these groups;

4. Wide experience has shown that direct measures to supplement inadequate diets have been economical and fruitful;

The United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture

RECOMMENDS:

That the several governments and authorities here represented undertake positive measures for the improvement of the diets of the vulnerable groups enumerated above.

V. MALNUTRITION AND DISEASE

WHEREAS:

1. Malnutrition is responsible for widespread impairment of human efficiency and for an enormous amount of ill health and disease, reduces the resistance of the body to tuberculosis, and enhances the general incidence and severity of familiar diseases;

2. Mortality rates in infants, children, and mothers are higher in ill-fed than in well-fed populations;

3. Food consumption at a level merely sufficient to prevent malnutrition is not enough to promote health and well-being;

The United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the governments and authorities here represented:

(a) Initiate or continue the study of the relationship between malnutrition and impaired bodily health and vigor; and, in particular, investigate the role of inadequate food consumption in the causation of, and mortality from, all those diseases which constitute their most serious health problems;

(b) Direct their attention to the study of health and well-being and of the nutritional and related factors which are necessary to secure and maintain them;

(c) Consider the most effective means of disseminating knowledge of correct feeding among all sections of the population.

VI. DEFICIENCY DISEASES

WHEREAS:

1. The progressive improvement of diets will result in better health and eventually in the elimination of specific deficiency diseases, and a great deal of unnecessary suffering could be avoided if

an immediate and concerted attack were made upon them;

2. Progress in our knowledge of nutrition makes it possible to seek out, treat successfully, and prevent the recurrence of the common diseases resulting from specific deficiencies in the diet;

The United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the several governments and authorities here represented undertake immediately:

(a) To ascertain the prevalence of specific deficiency diseases among their respective peoples;

(b) To deal with them by suitable dietary and therapeutic measures;

(c) To take appropriate steps to prevent their recurrence.

VII. NATIONAL NUTRITION ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS:

1. A sound food and nutrition policy must be adopted by each government if national diets are to be progressively improved, specific deficiency diseases eliminated, and good health achieved;

2. Such a policy requires the guidance of a central authority with special competence and responsibility to interpret the science of nutrition in the light of national conditions and to propose to the appropriate authorities practical means for extending its benefits to all sections of society;

*The United Nations Conference on Food and
Agriculture*

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the governments and authorities here represented:

(a) Undertake to establish national nutrition organizations, if such do not now exist, entrusted with the responsibility of ascertaining food-consumption habits and the nutritional status of different sections of the population; such organizations to be composed of authorities in health, nutrition, economics, and agriculture, together with administrators and consumers' representatives, etc.; to be provided with adequate funds and facilities for the efficient conduct of their work; and to have the authority to bring their recommendations to the attention of the public and to those agencies of government which deal with agriculture and the framing of economic and social policy;

(b) Re-examine and, if necessary, reorganize existing agencies and review legislation concerned with health, agriculture, and nutrition to the end that food and nutrition policies may be efficiently carried out.

VIII. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCE

WHEREAS:

1. Experience has shown that national nutrition organizations receive considerable benefit from periodic exchanges of views and information on methods employed, obstacles encountered, and progress achieved;

2. Governments participating in a common undertaking will wish to collaborate so that levels of food consumption may become more equitable not only among the different sections of the population in a given country but among the several nations of the world as well;

*The United Nations Conference on Food and
Agriculture*

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the several national nutrition organizations exchange information and experience and provide mutual assistance, both directly, when desirable, and through the permanent organization recommended in Resolution II, to which they should submit periodic reports on the results of their investigations into national dietary habits and nutritional status, and on the progress achieved in raising the level of food consumption throughout the population;

2. That representatives of the several national nutrition organizations meet regularly under the auspices of the permanent organization to exchange views and to make proposals for any national and international action necessary to facilitate the progress of their work.

IX. DIETARY STANDARDS

WHEREAS:

1. It is essential that there be some measure of the extent to which food supplies should be increased, and of the character and extent of the dietary improvements which need to be carried out;

2. This measure is best provided by dietary standards or allowances based upon scientific evidence;

*The United Nations Conference on Food and
Agriculture*

RECOMMENDS:

That the governments and authorities here represented adopt as the ultimate goal of their food and nutrition policy, dietary standards or allowances based upon scientific assessment of the amount and quality of food, in terms of nutrients, which promote health, and distinguish clearly between these standards and the more immediate consumption goals which necessarily must be based upon the practical possibilities of improving the food supply of their populations.

X. COOPERATION OF EXISTING AGENCIES

WHEREAS:

1. National nutrition organizations were established in many countries before the present war and various national and international health and nutrition agencies had achieved considerable progress in the study and improvement of diets and food-consumption levels in different countries and regions;

2. If no time is to be lost in moving toward the goals set out by the Conference, it is essential to make full use of the information and experience acquired by these agencies;

*The United Nations Conference on Food and
Agriculture*

RECOMMENDS:

That in the establishment of the permanent organization recommended in Resolution II, in any projected regional branches of that organization, and in any national nutrition organizations, due account should be taken of the work and experience of existing international regional or national agencies concerned with food, health, and nutrition; and in any such plans, the possibility of enlisting the cooperation of such agencies should be fully explored.

XI. NON-FOOD PRODUCTS

WHEREAS:

1. Many of the non-food agricultural and marine products are constituent parts of the means to human health and welfare to an extent which merits consideration for them on a plane with food;

2. It is of great importance to consuming countries that there should be a regular and adequate supply of these commodities, and to producing countries that they should be enabled to orient their agricultural enterprises to world demand;

3. The Conference has not found it possible to reach conclusions as to the effective capacity of the world to consume specific products in future years;

4. In many countries and regions which are not well adapted to the production of food, the pro-

duction of other essential agricultural and marine products and their disposal on domestic and foreign markets provide a major source of income, and the income so derived determines to a large extent the abilities of these countries and regions to secure adequate quantities of the right kinds of food;

*The United Nations Conference on Food and
Agriculture*

RECOMMENDS:

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

The United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture

RECOMMENDS:

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 livestock 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 livestock);

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, etc., 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 cooperate in making these materials available to the agricultural producing countries, so far as the exigencies of the war permit.

XIII. COORDINATION 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 agricul-

tural 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 reestablished 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;

*The United Nations Conference on Food and
Agriculture*

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the governments and authorities here represented, for so long after the war as shortages

continue, affirm the principle of mutual responsibility and coordinated 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;

(c) The prevention of speculative and violent fluctuations in the prices of food, the instruments of production, and other necessities, including industrial goods, under the conditions of scarcity that appear certain to prevail after the war;

(d) The post-war readjustment of agriculture to achieve a progressive and balanced expansion of production and consumption throughout the world;

2. That these governments and authorities take, individually and in concert, whether by conference or otherwise, all necessary measures, both domestic and international, to secure the application of this principle and the achievement of these objectives.

XIV. ADJUSTMENT OF PRODUCTION IN THE TRANSITION FROM THE SHORT-TERM TO THE LONG-TERM PERIOD

The United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture

RECOMMENDS:

1. That countries whose agriculture has been impaired should progressively modify their short-

term allocation of resources to conform more closely to the long-term plan aimed at better nutrition and greater efficiency in production (for instance, in certain parts of Europe this might mean increasing the production of milk products as herds can be reestablished, accompanied by declining production of grains);

2. That countries which will have been producing during the short-term period more than normal output because of freedom from enemy action in the war or which have undertaken new lines of production, should progressively adjust the allocation of agricultural resources to conform to a long-term coordinated production plan for the best use of these resources on a world scale, based on better diets for their own people and on the international demand for nutritionally better food.

XV. LONG-TERM PRODUCTION POLICY

WHEREAS:

1. It is recognized that a secure, adequate and suitable supply of food should be a cardinal aim in every country;

2. It is recognized that this can be achieved only as part of a world-wide policy of industrial and agricultural expansion;

3. It is recognized that in order to secure this result producers should receive a fair return for their products;

4. In order to attain the highest nutritional standards, a progressive expansion and, where necessary, reorientation in agriculture will be required;

5. It is desirable to formulate a body of principles which are applicable to agricultural policy in appropriate form in all countries;

The United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture

RECOMMENDS:

1. (a) That the inherent natural and economic advantages of any area should determine the farming systems adopted and the commodities produced in that area;

(b) That farming systems should be so designed as:

(I) To maintain soil fertility at levels which will sustain yields and ensure adequate return for labor;

(II) To protect crops and livestock from major pests and diseases;

(III) To favor steady employment throughout the year;

(These three ends, in general and save in exceptional circumstances, can best be assured by balanced mixed rotational farming and by avoidance of single-crop production, or monoculture);

(c) That production of nutritionally desirable foods which can be obtained from elsewhere only with difficulty or not at all is a special obligation of the agriculture of every country;

(d) In every region subject to drought (occasional or in the form of sharply marked periodic dry seasons) suitable measures should be undertaken, partly by storage and partly by diversification of production and development of water resources and cultural practices;

(e) Land used or likely to be required for agriculture should be protected from erosion;

(f) The spread of existing knowledge by education and the development of new knowledge by research should be constantly promoted, and that in these matters nations can cooperate to great advantage;

2. That, subject to these principles and with the object of expanding production of the foods needed for its people, each nation should undertake to direct its policies toward:

(a) Increasing the efficiency of production in present producing areas through the introduction, as rapidly as conditions permit, of better farming methods, suitable modern equipment, improved varieties of crops and strains of livestock, and soil conservation practices;

(b) Developing any suitable undeveloped areas, where this is economically feasible, through the use of such measures as clearing the land and large-scale drainage and irrigation projects;

(c) Fostering desirable changes in the pattern of production, designed to give greater emphasis to foods rich in vitamins, minerals, and proteins:

(I) By encouraging the production, particularly in areas near consumption centers, of such products as vegetables, fruits, milk, eggs, and meat, which are relatively perishable and high in value and which are also the foods required in greatly increased quantities for better nutrition;

(II) By encouraging the expansion of livestock production in areas capable of growing or economically shipping in the necessary feedstuffs;

(III) By limiting the production of bulky, easily stored and transported energy foods, in areas where they cannot be produced efficiently;

(IV) By encouraging the production in single-crop areas of a greater diversity of foods for home use, since these areas are, in general, distant from the sources of perishable products and are particularly in need of improved diets;

(v) By likewise encouraging more diversified and adequate home food production in all farming areas, so that rural people may have more and better food, while eliminating the margin between producer and consumer;

3. That, to implement these aims, having regard to its individual circumstances, each country should adopt the following measures:

(a) The framing of policies designed to encourage production within the country of commodities that need to be produced there in greater amounts and limit production of those that should not be produced within the country or should be produced in smaller amounts;

(b) The supplying of low-cost credit or other aids that would help producers to acquire necessary materials, equipment, and machinery for more efficient production and better use of the land;

(c) The furnishing of technical assistance to producers where this is needed;

(d) The development of a program of education to help producers understand better farming methods and put them into practice;

(e) The development of a program of research designed to meet the continuing problems of agriculture within the country;

4. (a) That each nation consider the possibility:

(I) Of drawing up periodic reports on steps taken to implement the recommendations set out above, with particular reference to production, exports, imports, and consumption of food and other agricultural and marine products. These reports should, where practicable, be on a statistical basis;

(II) Of submitting these reports to the permanent organization recommended in Resolution II;

(b) That, with a view to balancing production and consumption, the permanent organization consider to what extent and by what means such reports might contribute to international collaboration both on a regional and on a world basis in the field of agricultural production.

XVI. AGRICULTURAL CREDIT

WHEREAS:

1. Capital development and adequate credit facilities are necessary if agricultural production is to be restored, increased, and intensified;

2. Agricultural credit in some countries has frequently been obtainable only at rates which the farmer could not afford to pay;

3. The agricultural communities in many countries have been unable to obtain information on the organization and development of agricultural credit systems in other countries;

4. In some countries full agricultural development has been or may be obstructed by difficulties in providing adequate capital;

*The United Nations Conference on Food and
Agriculture*

RECOMMENDS:

1. That every endeavor be made to ensure an adequate supply of credit to agriculture;

2. That to this end full use be made of all types of suitable private, cooperative, and public credit institutions;

3. That the rate of interest be as low as possible and the conditions regarding initial cost, redemption, etc., be as favorable as possible for the borrowers, particularly with a view to helping the small farmer;

4. That, in view of the importance of agricultural credit, its requirements be duly recognized by international action taken as a result of this Conference.

XVII. COOPERATIVE MOVEMENTS

WHEREAS:

1. The cooperative movement has been of very great importance in many countries, both to urban and rural populations, especially in agricultural districts where farming is based on small units and in urban areas of low-income families;

2. The proper functioning of cooperative societies may facilitate adjustments of agricultural production and distribution, as members have confidence in the recommendations and guidance of their own cooperative organizations, which they know operate in the interest of their members and of society in general;

3. The democratic control and educational programs, which are features of the cooperative movement, can play a vital part in the training of good democratic citizens, and assist in inducing a sound conception of economic matters;

The United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture

RECOMMENDS:

1. That, in order to make it possible for people to help themselves in lowering costs of production and costs of distribution and marketing:

(a) All countries study the possibilities of the further establishment of producer and consumer cooperative societies in order to render necessary production, marketing, purchasing, finance, and other services;

(b) Each nation examines its laws, regulations, and institutions to determine if legal or institutional obstacles to cooperative development exist, in order to make desirable adjustments;

(c) Full information as to the present development of cooperatives in different countries be made available through the permanent organization recommended in Resolution II.

XVIII. LAND TENURE AND FARM LABOR

WHEREAS:

Agricultural productivity and efficiency and the well-being of the tiller of the soil depend largely upon the system of land tenure and conditions of farm labor;

*The United Nations Conference on Food and
Agriculture*

RECOMMENDS:

1. That each nation make a careful survey of existing systems of land tenure and the other conditions of agriculture within its boundaries to ascertain whether changes in these systems and conditions are necessary or desirable to promote the productivity and efficiency of agriculture and the welfare of its workers and that special attention be given to the position of the agricultural worker as compared with that of the worker in other industries;

2. That the permanent organization recommended in Resolution II give every assistance in this study.

XIX. EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

WHEREAS:

1. Through the inadequacy of agricultural education, existing knowledge is being very imperfectly applied to agricultural production;

2. Man's increasing demands upon the soil can be met only by the increase of knowledge;

*The United Nations Conference on Food and
Agriculture*

RECOMMENDS:

1. That each nation adopt, and carry out as rapidly as conditions may permit, a policy for:

(a) Strengthening and expanding the educational system of its rural areas;

(b) Training scientific workers and rural leaders for service in agriculture;

(c) Establishing or developing systems of rural adult education (extension systems) designed to promote technical efficiency among producers, to develop understanding of rural problems, and to enrich rural life;

2. That each nation adopt a policy of promoting research in all the branches of science, including economics, which relate to food and agriculture, and to this end cooperate actively with other nations by the exchange of knowledge, materials, and personnel; and that, in particular, each nation agree:

(a) To promote research in the natural sciences and their application to problems of food and agriculture;

(b) To develop economic and sociological investigation of rural problems;

(c) To collaborate with other nations in the collecting and assembling of factual information and statistics of food and agriculture throughout the world;

3. That, as a necessary step in securing effective action in these directions, the permanent organization recommended in Resolution II be charged with the functions:

(a) Of providing advice, and technical and other assistance, to governments desiring this in connection with the establishment or improvement of agricultural research and education;

(b) Of facilitating international help and exchange in the supply of information, services, materials, and personnel;

(c) Of assisting in the planning and conduct of any research programs upon which international collaboration has been agreed or desired;

(d) Of acting as a central agency for assembling, analyzing, and disseminating factual data on world agriculture;

(e) Of assisting in a comprehensive abstracting service covering the whole range of agricultural research;

(f) Of assisting scientific societies in the arrangement of international meetings.

XX. CONSERVING LAND AND WATER RESOURCES

WHEREAS:

1. Soil erosion has in the past destroyed or severely limited the utility of vast areas of land and will in the future, unless checked, constitute the greatest physical danger to the world's food production;

2. Failure to conserve and control water supplies and to use them efficiently has, in many areas, precluded important potential increase in food production;

3. To meet the food needs of the growing world population and to ensure high nutritional standards, all land in agricultural use or suitable for being brought into agricultural use should be adequately protected from erosion and from any other serious damage by various measures, including structural work and the insurance of satisfactory agricultural systems and husbandry practices;

4. The conserving of land and water resources should be regarded as an obligation of governments as well as individuals;

*The United Nations Conference on Food and
Agriculture*

RECOMMENDS:

1. That each nation undertake:

(a) To survey its land and water resources with the object of ascertaining:

(I) The extent and causes of soil erosion and water losses;

(II) The soil and moisture conservation requirements of the areas covered and the types of conservation measures most needed;

(b) To develop soil and water conservation programs based on the findings of such surveys;

(c) To assist farmers in conserving and rebuilding the fertility of the soil;

2. That the necessary implementation of these policies be effected through appropriate economic and other measures such as:

(a) Assisting individual producers in planning and carrying out crop rotations, crop sequences, and other suitable practices;

(b) Protection of forest and afforestation of unprotected watersheds where necessary, including measures for the protection of food-producing wild life, to prevent flood damage and to conserve water needed for direct human consumption and for irrigation;

(c) Building, or assisting in building, dams, terraces, and other structures to minimize the loss of soil fertility through erosion caused by wind or water;

(d) Making readily available to individual producers soil amendments, particularly phosphates and lime, that will make possible expanded pro-

duction of leguminous and other soil-building crops;

(e) Development and employment of farming systems and husbandry practices which ensure soil conservation;

(f) Developing a program of research designed to determine the best methods and practices for bringing about conservation of land and water resources under various conditions;

(g) Developing a program of education to inform the public generally of the importance and need of conservation and to help producers to understand and put into practice better farming methods;

3. That the permanent organization recommended in Resolution II provide assistance by such means as:

(a) Formulation of a body of principles for the conduct of soil-conservation work;

(b) Collection and interchange between nations of data and information on erosion, erosion-control methods, and other pertinent matters;

(c) Interchange between nations of personnel technically trained in the development of conservation research and in the application of its findings.

XXI. DEVELOPMENT AND SETTLEMENT OF LAND FOR FOOD PRODUCTION

WHEREAS:

1. If freedom from want is to be achieved throughout the world by full development of food-producing resources, conservation of existing lands and the development of new areas must be given primary consideration:

2. There are large areas of land capable of materially adding to the world's food supply which can be opened to food production if transportation facilities were made available and insanitary conditions and other deterrents corrected;

3. There are many areas of great extent not now producing or in a low state of production because of lack of water-conserving and storing facilities for irrigation, lack of drainage, frequent flooding by rivers, wastage by erosion, deficiencies of plant food, accumulation of alkali, or improper development;

*The United Nations Conference on Food and
Agriculture*

RECOMMENDS:

1. That each nation undertake:

(a) To survey its land and water resources to determine (1) in what areas, if opened to settlement, production of food could materially be increased; (2) what areas, if supplied with additional production facilities, such as water supply for irrigation, improved drainage, or by the correction of deterrents to production, could materially increase their production of food; (3) the kind, extent, and economic possibility of developments necessary for this increase in food production;

(b) To develop on the basis of these findings policies of settlement and development of a program applicable to the economic, social, agricultural, and geographical needs of the nation of which it is a part, considering:

(I) Physical conditions including (1) soils and climate, (2) health conditions, (3) transportation, and (4) clearing, irrigation, or drainage needs;

(II) Settlement policies, including (1) the type of farming systems to be established, (2) the scale of working by plantations, small holdings, or co-operative organization of areas for production, (3) measures to prevent speculation and exploitation, and (4) financial and other assistance;

(III) Conservation measures for sustained production of the area, including (1) agronomic and management practices, (2) conservation structures and practices, (3) protection against alkali accumulations, and (4) measures of forest conservation and reforestation;

2. That the necessary implementation of these policies and programs be given through appropriate measures applicable to conditions and needs of each region or area, including:

(a) A comprehensive engineering service providing for developments affecting the entire area, such as transportation, improvement of sanitary conditions, water-storage reservoirs, drainage channels, and flood protection;

(b) Development of a program of sound land use, including conservation measures;

(c) Provision for technical assistance to individual producers in planning and developing the areas under their supervision.

(d) Provision for financial assistance to settlers for further development and operation;

(e) Provisions for marketing produce, including necessary processing and preservation;

3. That the permanent organization recommended in Resolution II provide assistance by such means as:

(a) The interchange between nations of pertinent data and information on erosion and methods of control, land improvements, etc.;

(b) The interchange between nations of technically trained personnel to assist in the development of conservation research, etc.

POPULATIONS

XXII. OCCUPATIONAL ADJUSTMENTS IN RURAL

The United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture

RECOMMENDS:

1. That, in order to effect the necessary occupational adjustments in agricultural populations:

(a) Agricultural efficiency should be improved and new lands brought under cultivation wherever possible;

(b) Areas which have a large agricultural population in relation to their agricultural resources should:

(i) Develop industries suitable to the area, particularly for the processing and preserving of the agricultural produce of the country, and, where feasible, for the manufacture of machinery, fertilizer, and equipment needed for agriculture;

(ii) Be encouraged, wherever it is economically sound, to export processed articles instead of the raw product, and in particular to take advantage of any reductions of trade barriers in the importing countries;

(III) Be assisted in securing capital for the development of industrial and transportation facilities and for the development of export outlets for processed products;

(IV) Be assisted in securing facilities for the importation of machinery and tools where such are necessary;

(V) Be assisted in securing and training technical personnel;

(VI) Undertake programs of public works and, where necessary, be assisted in securing technical advice and access to capital;

(VII) Develop sources of employment in public and private services;

(c) Where agricultural settlements are possible, appropriate steps should be taken to facilitate the movement of people from overmanned agricultural areas;

(d) In order to help in intra-national and international migration where these are feasible:

(I) Occupational training should be provided;

(II) Labor bureaus should be set up where necessary;

(III) Transportation, communication, housing, sanitation, health, and other public facilities necessary to effective settlement should be provided by the country receiving the migrants;

(IV) Steps should be taken to provide for the economic security of the migrants;

(e) Where emigration is possible, an international organization should support arrangements to provide adequate safeguards for settlers and for the countries concerned, and to facilitate the movement through other appropriate means.

XXIII. INTERNATIONAL SECURITY.

WHEREAS:

1. Freedom from want cannot be achieved without freedom from fear;

2. Policies of aggression and the fear of aggression have induced the uneconomic employment of human and material resources, the development of uneconomic industries, the imposition of barriers to international trade, the introduction of discriminatory trade practices, and the expenditure of huge sums on armaments;

3. These obstructions to a progressively expanding economy cannot be removed without effective collaboration among nations;

*The United Nations Conference on Food and
Agriculture*

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the governments and authorities here represented, by virtue of their determination to achieve freedom from want for all people in all lands, affirm the principle of mutual responsibility and coordinated action to establish such conditions of international security as will make possible an expanding and balanced world economy;

2. That these governments and authorities take in concert all necessary measures to secure the application of this principle and the achievement of this objective.

XXIV. ACHIEVEMENT OF AN ECONOMY OF ABUNDANCE:

WHEREAS:

1. The first cause of hunger and malnutrition is poverty.

2. The promotion of the full employment of human and material resources, based on sound social and economic policies, is the first condition of a general and progressive increase in production and purchasing power;

3. The sound expansion of industry in undeveloped and other areas, with equality of access to materials and markets, serves also to expand production and purchasing power and is therefore indispensable to any comprehensive program for the advancement of agriculture;

4. Tariffs and other barriers to international trade, and abnormal fluctuations in exchange rates, restrict the production, distribution, and consumption of foodstuffs and other commodities;

5. Progress by individual nations toward a higher standard of living contributes to the solution of broader economic problems, but freedom from want cannot be achieved without effective collaboration among nations;

*The United Nations Conference on Food and
Agriculture*

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the governments and authorities here represented, by virtue of their determination to achieve freedom from want for all people in all lands, affirm the principle of mutual responsibility and coordinated action:

(a) To promote the full and most advantageous employment of their own and all other people and a general advance in standards of living, thereby providing for an increase in both production and purchasing power;

(b) To promote the uninterrupted development and most advantageous use of agricultural and other material resources for the establishment of an equitable balance between agriculture and industry in the interest of all;

(c) To secure for agriculture the stimulus of additional purchasing power through the sound development of industry;

(d) To assist in the achievement of these ends by all appropriate means, including the supply of capital, equipment, and technical skill;

(e) To maintain an equilibrium in balances of payments, and to achieve the orderly management of currencies and exchange;

(f) To improve the methods and reduce the cost of distribution in international trade;

(g) As an integral part of this program, to reduce barriers of every kind to international trade and to eliminate all forms of discriminatory restrictions thereon, including inequitable policies in international transportation, as effectively and as rapidly as possible;

2. That these governments and authorities take, individually and in concert, whether by conference or otherwise, all necessary measures, both domestic and international, to secure the application of this principle and the achievement of these objectives.

XXV. INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS

WHEREAS:

1. Excessive short-term movements in the prices of food and agricultural commodities are an obstacle to the orderly conduct of their production and distribution;

2. Extreme fluctuations of the prices of food and agricultural products aggravate general deflationary and inflationary tendencies, which are injurious to producers and consumers alike;

3. The mitigation of these influences would promote the objectives of an expansionist policy;

4. Changes in the scale and character of production to meet more effectively the world's need for food and agricultural products may in certain instances require a period of transition and international cooperation to aid producers in making necessary readjustments in their productive organization;

5. International commodity arrangements may play a useful part in the advancement of these ends but further study is necessary to establish the precise forms which these arrangements should take and whether and to what extent regulation of production may be needed;

*The United Nations Conference on Food and
Agriculture*

RECOMMENDS:

1. That international commodity arrangements should be designed so as to promote the expansion of an orderly world economy;

2. That, to this end, a body of broad principles should, through further international discussion, be agreed upon regarding the formulation, the provisions, and the administration of such international commodity arrangements as may be deemed feasible and desirable and should include assurance that:

(a) Such arrangements will include effective representation of consumers as well as producers;

(b) Increasing opportunities will be afforded for supplying consumption needs from the most efficient sources of production at prices fair to both consumers and producers and with due regard to such transitional adjustments in production as may be required to prevent serious economic and social dislocations;

(c) Adequate reserves will be maintained to meet all consumption needs;

(d) Provision will be made, when applicable, for the orderly disposal of surpluses;

3. That international organization should be created at any early date to study the feasibility and desirability of such arrangements with reference to individual commodities and, in appropriate cases, to initiate or review such arrangements to be entered into between governments, and to guide and coordinate the operations of such arrangements in accordance with agreed principles, maintaining close relations with such programs as may be undertaken in other fields of international economic activity to the end that the objective of raising consumption levels of all peoples may be most effectively served.

XXVI. SPECIAL NATIONAL MEASURES FOR WIDER FOOD DISTRIBUTION

WHEREAS:

1. Even in the most prosperous countries there are many families which cannot afford to buy enough good food;

2. In some countries, and at some times, hunger and semistarvation have been widespread;

3. This situation has existed even when agricultural prices have been low and when large supplies of food have piled up in warehouses or rotted in the fields, and the problem will not be fully met by general economic measures to stimulate production and trade;

*The United Nations Conference on Food and
Agriculture*

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the governments and authorities here represented accept the responsibility of making it possible, so far as it is within their power, for each person in their respective countries who is without an adequate diet, to improve his diet in the direction of obtaining the physiological requirements of health, adopting such of the following, or other, measures as are designed to fit local conditions and institutions:

(a) Adequate social-security measures, such as family allowances, social insurance, and minimum wages;

(b) Some form of direct action to make protective foods available free, or at low prices, to groups with inadequate diets;

(c) Special attention to assisting such groups as pregnant women, nursing mothers, infants, children, aged persons, invalids, and low-paid persons;

2. That the diets provided under these programs be based upon the best scientific information on nutritional needs;

3. That food-distribution measures be coordinated with programs to increase food production

and to bring about adjustments in agriculture and fishing which will, on the one hand, encourage the production and distribution of those foods most lacking in the diets of the country, and adapted to the soils and climates; and will, on the other hand, provide an adequate level of living to persons engaged in farming and fishing;

4. That the permanent organization recommended in Resolution II assist the several governments and authorities in making surveys of nutritional needs, in helping develop new food-distribution programs, in disseminating information concerning those programs, and in aiding to coordinate efforts in this field.

XXVII. SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL MEASURES FOR WIDER FOOD DISTRIBUTION

WHEREAS:

1. The provision of adequate food for all the people in each nation is primarily the responsibility of the nation concerned and that this responsibility will be met primarily by national measures;

2. Nevertheless, undernutrition may continue for long periods of time in certain countries, while they are developing their agriculture and industry, and before they are able to produce internally or acquire abroad adequate amounts of food to meet the needs of their people;

3. It is generally agreed that it would be desirable if arrangements could be made whereby a part of current world food supplies could be used to supplement the national food-distribution programs of certain countries;

4. Moreover, relatively little attention has been given in the past to the possibilities of developing special measures for wider food distribution in the international field;

*The United Nations Conference on Food and
Agriculture*

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the permanent organization recommended in Resolution II study the possibility of devising measures to meet the needs of countries with inadequate supplies, and the machinery needed for this purpose, distinguishing between methods which would be used in the case of famines following catastrophes, and in the case of countries where the available food supplies are generally inadequate;

2. That the problems of developing special international measures for wider food distribution in the latter case be studied in connection with plans in the countries concerned for the long-term development of the national resources, and for raising the technical skill and the level of living of their workers, and that the above-mentioned permanent organization collaborate with the International Labor Office on this question.

XXVIII. GOVERNMENT AND OTHER NATIONAL SERVICES
IN MARKETING

WHEREAS:

Improvements in the marketing of foods and other products of agricultural or marine origin are largely dependent upon certain basic govern-

ment services, including the provision of quality standards, an efficient grading and inspection service, marketing research and education designed to promote improved marketing practices, and protection of the public, through the medium of pure-food laws, against impurities or adulterations and against unfair competition and undesirable trade practices;

*The United Nations Conference on Food and
Agriculture*

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the permanent organization recommended in Resolution II:

(a) Investigate the practicability, and, if practicable, assist in the adoption of international grade standards for agricultural and marine commodities and of providing machinery for controlling the use of any such international grade standards in international trade:

(b) Give assistance to governments and other national organizations looking to the establishment in each country of adequate grade standards and technical advisory and inspection services covering appropriate products, and, if requested, advise in the promotion of the educative, administrative, and legislative action necessary to achieve this objective;

(c) Promote standardization of containers, both nationally and internationally, along the lines suggested in connection with grades;

(d) Assist governments to extend and improve standards of nutrient content and purity of all important foods, consider also the formulation and

adoption of similar international standards to facilitate and protect the interchange of such products between countries, and agree upon international methods of determination;

(e) Consider the formulation and adoption of international standards or minimum requirements for drugs, insecticides, fungicides, fertilizers, and other materials used by agricultural producers, in order to prevent misrepresentation in their preparation and sale, and to promote the purchase of products best suited to particular uses;

(f) Consider whether existing international market news services adequately supply and coordinate information and statistics on prices and supply and demand; and promote any improvements considered necessary;

(g) Urge upon governments the necessity, in the interests of better nutrition and better living, for further research into:

(I) Consumer needs, including palatability, packaging, food habits, shopping habits, shopping facilities, etc.;

(II) Improved methods, with particular reference to perishable protective foods and any commodities of which buffer or other stocks may be held, of processing, preservation, storage, packaging, and transport;

(III) Economics of marketing, including processing and retail distribution, consumer needs, and ways in which the shopkeeper, trader, and farmer can be helped to meet these needs;

(IV) The relation of food production on the farm to market demand and nutritional requirements; and

engage in the dissemination of the information so obtained, and urge on governments the need for education of the producer, the intermediary, and the consumer in the principles of good marketing, and in marketing technique, including processing and storage;

2. That the governments and authorities here represented take steps to ensure that producers and consumers are adequately protected against trade malpractices and against exploitation in the purchase and sale of food and other products of agricultural or marine origin, and commend general and specific measures to prevent confusion as to quality and country of origin; and that the permanent organization above-mentioned assist, if requested, governments and authorities to this end, and, if appropriate, formulate international codes of trade practices.

XXIX. ADDITIONS TO AND IMPROVEMENTS IN MARKETING FACILITIES

WHEREAS:

1. Many countries are lacking in adequate facilities for the preservation of essential foods for consumption throughout the year, and for the production, transport, and distribution of these foods to satisfy nutritional needs;

2. The destruction and disorganization of marketing facilities resulting from the war will make this problem particularly acute in countries which are the victims of hostilities;

3. Technological developments in food preservation, processing, and transport have been accelerated by the war and give promise of contributing materially to the solution of these problems:

*The United Nations Conference on Food and
Agriculture*

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the governments and authorities here represented take steps to secure the provision of adequate processing, transportation, and distribution facilities required for improving the nutritional levels of their populations; and that the permanent organization recommended in Resolution II study the technical, scientific, and economic factors involved, with particular reference to developments during the war, arrange for the pooling of knowledge thus acquired, and give all possible assistance to the governments and authorities in realizing these objectives;

2. That steps be taken by each country to achieve full utilization of important new technological developments in food preservation, transportation, and marketing, including especially dehydration, freezing, and ocean and air transportation;

3. That the permanent organization above-mentioned take steps to obtain, collate, and disseminate information regarding conditions of marketing, processing, and storage facilities in all countries, including those devastated by war, with particular reference to any increased facilities needed and to the rehabilitation of countries devastated by war, in order to promote the expansion of marketing facilities in a carefully planned rather than a haphazard manner;

4. That governments examine transport deficiencies, both internally and in connection with export and import trade, which may be hinder-

ing the development of adequate and efficient marketing of foodstuffs and other agricultural and marine products and take such steps as may be necessary to rectify deficiencies; and that any international body concerned with international transport assist to this end.

XXX. INCREASING THE EFFICIENCY AND REDUCING THE
COST OF MARKETING

WHEREAS:

1. The maintenance of food consumption among the peoples of the world at levels sufficiently high to satisfy minimum health requirements calls for the provision of greater quantities of better food at reasonable prices;

2. Except in some countries where consumers largely produce their own food supplies, a substantial part of the total cost of food to the consumer consists of marketing costs (including the costs of assembly, grading, inland and sea transport, storage, wholesale and retail distribution), processing costs, and the rewards of enterprise;

3. In some countries, the provision of unessential services increases the margin between the producer and consumer;

4. Reduction in marketing costs and margins can benefit both producer and consumer alike;

*The United Nations Conference on Food and
Agriculture*

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the governments and authorities here represented take all practicable steps to reduce marketing, processing, storage and distribution

costs, and margins between producers and consumers, particularly by the elimination of unessential services not required by producers or by low-income consumers.

2. That the permanent organization recommended in Resolution II collect and disseminate information on marketing costs and margins in different countries and in international trade, on the factors which determine or influence such costs and margins, and on the steps taken by governments, by cooperative associations, and by private enterprise to reduce them.

XXXI. FISH AND MARINE PRODUCTS

WHEREAS:

1. Fish, marine animals, and marine products are essential in high degree to the diet of the people of many countries and play an important role in the nutrition of other countries;

2. The production of fish and marine products is vital to the economy of certain countries, and the adequate livelihood of the fisherman, like that of the farmer, depends upon a balanced world economy;

3. Consideration of questions relating to fish and marine products is important in any program designed to meet immediate and long-term food and other requirements;

*The United Nations Conference on Food and
Agriculture*

RECOMMENDS:

That the general conclusions reached by this Conference apply, wherever appropriate, to fish and

marine products, and that these subjects be considered by the permanent organization recommended in Resolution II.

XXXII. RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture expresses its gratitude to the President of the United States of America, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, for his initiative in convening the present Conference, for its preparation, and for his contribution to its success. This resolution is to be embodied in the Final Act of the Conference.

XXXIII. APPRECIATION TO THE OFFICIALS OF THE CONFERENCE

WHEREAS:

1. The United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture was able to conduct its work under conditions of exceptional efficiency;

2. This efficiency and consequent good results, in no small measure resulted from the wisdom and talents of the Chairman, the Honorable Marvin Jones, whose ideals of international solidarity were a source of inspiration and stimulus to all;

3. Without the previous and exhaustive preparation of documentary materials submitted to the Conference by the Secretariat and without its painstaking work, it would not have been possible for the Conference to attain in such a short time the results achieved;

*The United Nations Conference on Food and
Agriculture*

RESOLVES:

1. To express to its Chairman, the Honorable Marvin Jones, its deep appreciation for the admirable manner in which he has guided the Conference and to pay to him the tribute of its gratitude; and

2. To express to the Secretary General, to the Press Relations Officer, to the Assistant Secretary General, to the Secretariat, and to the clerical staff its appreciation for the efficiency and diligence shown in preparing the numerous documentary materials and in assisting the Conference in attaining its objectives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the following delegates sign the present Final Act.

DONE at Hot Springs, Virginia, on the third day of June, nineteen hundred and forty-three, in the English language, the original to be deposited in the archives of the Department of State of the United States, and certified copies thereof to be furnished by the Government of the United States of America to each of the governments and authorities represented at the Conference.