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OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

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REPORT OF THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE

COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

(Rome, 24 - 29 October 1957)

FAO/57/7403

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE
COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

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REPORT OF THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE
ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

1. The Committee on Commodity Problems held its Twenty-Ninth Session from 24-29 October 1957. The Session was attended by representatives from 23 member countries and observers from 22 countries and 8 international organizations. The Chair was taken by Mr. J.F. Yriart (Uruguay). A list of participants is given in Annex.II to the Report.

I. AGENDA

2. The Provisional Agenda for the Twenty-Ninth Session (CCP 57/17) was adopted with some amendment in the order in which items were taken. The Committee agreed to add an additional item, "Press Releases", to the Agenda.

II. SUMMARY RECORD OF TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

3. The Provisional Summary Record of the Twenty-Eighth Session (CCP 57/15) with the amendments circulated as an Addendum to the Record, was approved.

III. MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WORLD AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY SITUATION SINCE MARCH 1957

III(a) Current Outlook

4. The Committee reviewed recent developments in the world food and agricultural situation on the basis of information¹⁾ supplied by the Director-General in an up-to-date supplement to the State of Food and Agriculture 1957 (document C 57/8, Sup. 1 "Recent Developments in the World Food and Agricultural Situation"). It was noted that international trade in agricultural products may be lower in the 1957/58 marketing year than in 1956/57, when shipments under surplus disposal programs were large and import demand was unusually high owing to special factors which no longer operate, such as the need to replenish stocks of cotton, and the unusually poor European wheat crop. Some reductions in commodity prices have occurred, but it was noted that the drop in certain prices had been from levels which were high compared with the average in recent years. Prices of several commodities remain higher than they were a year ago, partly reflecting smaller market supplies, and partly because import demand remains strong. However, an overriding factor in the coming year may be lower imports due to balance of payments difficulties in some countries and to disinflationary policies. On the whole, world import demand for agricultural products is likely to be weaker in the present marketing year. In contrast, world market supplies of most products probably will remain high. While it is still too early to forecast crops such as cocoa and rice, which are mainly harvested later this year or early next year, there are prospects that production in 1957/58 of coffee, European sugar-beet, most livestock and dairy products, tea and wool, will remain large or increase, while the heavy North American stocks carried over from last season ensure that world supplies of wheat, coarse grains and cotton will remain very big.

III(b) Agricultural Surpluses

5. The agricultural surplus situation remains disquieting. There are two separate problems still facing governments : first, to adjust policies so as to regain a balance between current production and total effective demand, and second, to dispose of the existing surplus stocks overhanging

1) Comments of the Committee relating to the information in this paper are included in Addendum 1 to Conference document C 57/8, Sup. 1.

domestic and international markets without upsetting prices and international trade. The Committee noted with concern that effective results in cutting down world surplus stocks had so far been mainly in cotton. Some modest reductions in stocks of wheat, coarse grains and cotton were to be expected during 1957/58 following the reduced output this year in the main exporting countries owing to reduced acreage and bad weather. It was noted that over the past few years in a number of countries increases in yields per acre have been offsetting continuing declines in acreage. In the United States, government measures (including the Soil Bank scheme) designed to reduce acreage of wheat and coarse grains have been largely offset by the increases in yields per acre and the expansion of area planted to crops not under government restrictions.

6. It was recognized that the United States surpluses supplied on special terms had played an important role in aiding countries where consumption was increasing rapidly under the stimulus of economic development. The world's main economic problem is poverty and surplus supplies could provide urgently needed relief in maintaining or increasing consumption. Grave concern, however, was expressed at the huge scale of surplus disposal operations and their effect on normal commercial trade. The value of disposals on special terms by the United States Government (including foreign currency sales, grants and donations, special credit and barter) reached the massive total of \$ 1,900 million in 1956/57. This represented over 40 per cent of U.S. agricultural exports, and about one-tenth of total international agricultural trade. Although in the coming year shipments of cotton and wheat under special export programs are expected to slacken off, surplus disposal operations will still remain very large indeed and great care will have to be taken to minimize the effects on regular commercial trade, and to ensure continuation of consultations with interested third-party governments.

7. The Committee took note of the fact that a very serious surplus situation existed in the case of wheat. Such was not so in the case of rice, production of which at certain times fell short of demand. In this connection, the Director-General was requested by some delegations to give high priority to technical assistance to increase the production of rice.

IV. SURPLUS DISPOSAL

IV(a) Sixth Report of the Consultative Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal

8. The Committee noted the Sixth Report on the Washington Sub-Committee's activities and expressed its appreciation of the work it had undertaken.

9. The Committee welcomed the continuing emphasis being placed by the Sub-Committee on the need for a better understanding of the administrative provisions being written into agreements involving surplus commodities to ensure that the FAO Principles were being observed. The Committee noted that in this respect information to use as a basis for its work had been provided by some governments, but that in general the Sub-Committee has no established system of providing factual information either on particular surplus disposal transactions or on special programmes. Because the Sub-Committee is the main forum for the discussion of surplus disposal matters it is essential that member countries participating in surplus disposal transactions keep the Sub-Committee fully informed on these matters and that this information be supplied on a continuing basis. As the Sub-Committee pointed out, the benefit to governments of the activities of the Sub-Committee is in direct proportion to their willingness to participate in its work.

10. The Committee also received the report of the Sub-Committee's Working Party (CCP 57/19; Addendum 2) on the replies to the CCP questionnaire on surplus disposals of wheat and dairy products.^{1/} The Sub-Committee reported that a substantial amount of valuable data, particularly of the methods of distribution in some individual recipient countries, had been collected and analysed, and this will be useful as background information. It had concluded, however, that the results did not make possible an appraisal of the extent to which FAO Principles were being observed. The question was further considered under the next item.

11. Active attention was now being given by the Washington Sub-Committee to the possibilities of a pilot research study to examine national experience in the use of food surpluses and the Committee looked forward with interest to the outcome of this enquiry.

IV(b) Proposals of the Ninth General Meeting of IPAP

12. The Secretary-General of IPAP introduced the recommendations made in regard to international commodity machinery by the Ninth Ordinary General Meeting of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers. The purpose of the IPAP proposals, which the Committee found of much interest as a basis for its own discussions, was to ensure a more efficient functioning of the existing FAO machinery on surplus disposal matters.

13. As regards the proposals for the establishment of more effective consultative procedures, the Committee agreed that the present terms of reference of the Washington Sub-Committee were adequate to enable it, with the cooperation of member governments, to carry out its functions.

14. The IPAP also recommended that the Sub-Committee should consist of a small group of senior government representatives assisted by commodity experts. The Committee, on the contrary, believed that one of the main values of the present Sub-Committee lay in the broad basis of its membership and the fact that any interested FAO nation could join its discussions as member or observer. Nevertheless, members of the Sub-Committee had in the past and might in the future find it useful to assist the delegations by sending commodity experts as occasion warrants, as had been done in the case of discussions on surpluses of dried skim milk.

15. The Committee considered the recommendation by IPAP that the Sub-Committee should be given power to make and announce its decisions in its own right. It was felt that no change should be made in the present responsibility for reporting to the CCP. It was noted that procedure already existed for the circulation of reports direct to Governments through the Washington representatives as soon as they become available. Some delegates expressed the view that the Sub-Committee

^{1/} It will be recalled that the Conference, at its Eighth Session, had asked the CCP

"to instruct the Consultative Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal to consider ways in which a report to Member Governments could be prepared, in cooperation with the Director-General, on (a) the extent to which the approved principles have been observed and (b) the effects, if any, on the markets of other member countries, of disposals of surplus products on special terms either by price arrangements or other means; and to report its findings and conclusions to the CCP" (FAO Conference Resolution No.9/55).

A summary account of the Committee's consideration of the Conference request and of conclusions reached on the next steps to be taken was presented in Annex II, Section 4(c) of the Report of the Twenty-Eighth Session which is also before the Conference (C 57/11).

should be enabled to make direct recommendations to Governments as to proposed courses of action. The example was cited of a plan for international co-operative action for setting up milk processing plants and for other dairy improvement measures for particular areas.

16. As to the suggestion that there should be a high level meeting to review the FAO Principles in the light of experience since 1954, the Committee recalled that at its last session it had requested the Washington Sub-Committee to consider ways of reviewing the effectiveness of the FAO Principles, and it was noted that exploratory work was now under way. In the light of this and of the discussion in the present session of the Committee, as well as any debate as may take place at the Ninth Session of the FAO Conference, the Committee requested the Washington Sub-Committee to examine and report on the operation and adequacy of the FAO Principles and Guiding Lines of Surplus Disposal over the past three years, and recommend possible ways of ensuring that the disposal of surpluses is made without harmful interference with normal patterns of production and international trade. Furthermore, the Sub-Committee may wish to consider the IFAP proposals further, having regard to the discussions and conclusions in the present CCP session. The Committee felt that in the light of the Washington Sub-Committee's report and such discussions as may take place at the Conference, it would be in a position at its next session to decide upon any further action it might take.

IV(c). National Food Reserves

17. The Committee noted with satisfaction the Second Report of the Sub-Committee's Working Party on National Reserves and agreed that further study of the practical problems arising from the establishment, use and replenishment of reserves was desirable. Reference was also made to the information paper prepared for the Conference (C 57/13) which summarizes the present status of the program of work on these questions, and which also includes the comments made by the CCP at its previous session.

IV(d). Dried Skim Milk Proposals

18. Action taken on the dried skim milk schemes is noted in Section V(d)(i) "Dairy Products - Progress on Requests for International Co-operative Action" below.

V. ACTION ON INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES AND COMMODITY GROUPS

V(a). FAO Group on Grains

19. The Committee received the reports of the First and Second Sessions of the Group on Grains (CCP 57/16 and CCP 57/24).

20. The First Session of the Group dealt with organizational matters and outlined the programme of work to be undertaken. As its main assignments, the Group decided to address itself to:-

- i) The regular appraisal of the world grain situation and the short-term outlook;
- ii) The examination of trends in the grain economy;
- iii) The study and analysis of national grain policies and their international effects.

21. As its first objective, the Group decided to take up a study which would assess the main factors which have led to the present disequilibrium in the supply and demand for grains and the accumulation of surpluses.

22. At its Second Session, further consideration was given to this task of assessment as well as a review of present national policies affecting grains. Certain aspects of the current problems were singled out for

particular study. ^L The aspects selected for further investigation were those which are more likely to lead to practical action to remedy current grain problems and prevent their recurrence.] The topics to be studied, with particular reference to national policies, include factors affecting production (price, the effects of discrepancies between internal and external prices and the effects of price policies and government inducements on production), consumption (trends in consumption, response of demand to price and income changes, and policies affecting demand), and trade (including export subsidies, trade restrictions, State trading, bi-lateral arrangements and measures of surplus disposal).

23. ^L The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Group had made a good beginning with its far-reaching and difficult programme of work. Recognizing the need for more information and analysis, the Committee stressed the importance of concentration on the more urgent aspects with the aim of reaching practical remedies for the problems. The need for progress towards a better co-ordination of national policies, particularly with respect to surplus prevention was underlined.

24. The Group had agreed that, in order to expedite its work, an informal seminar might be held at FAO Headquarters some months prior to the next session of the Group, to consider drafts prepared by government representatives who would be in a position to act as rapporteurs on certain aspects of the work, as well as related drafts prepared by the Secretariat. It was generally felt by the Group that this Seminar would afford an opportunity for free and informed discussion on the work prepared before its submission to its next session. The Secretariat would take account of the results of these discussions in completing the documentation for consideration at that session.

25. The Committee welcomed these arrangements which, in its view, represented a useful innovation in the methods of work of its commodity groups.

V(b) FAO Cocoa Study Group

26. The Committee noted with satisfaction the Report of the Second Session of the FAO Cocoa Study Group (CCP 57/23) held in Ibadan, Western Region, Nigeria, 17-26 September 1957.

27. The Group's principal preoccupation at the Session, however, had been the consideration of the possibilities of devising a scheme which would limit price movements on the cocoa market within agreed upper and lower limits without injury to the long-term interests of the cocoa industry, a question on which proposals were put by some delegations.

28. To continue the study of this question, the Group had decided to set up a Working Party on Price Stabilization to report to it at its next Session. It also decided to retain an Executive Committee and a Committee on Statistics.

29. It had also discussed technical problems of production and consumption of cocoa, including those of quality, grading and substitutes and methods of increasing consumption, and had also made recommendations for the improvement of statistical data, involving techniques of forecasting production and consumption and the drawing up of a supply/demand balance sheet.

30. The Committee expressed its interest in, and appreciation of, the useful and constructive work the Group was engaged upon and felt that the Session had laid a sound foundation of understanding between producers and consumers. Whilst noting, in general, the need for caution in the establishment of additional machinery, the Committee was satisfied that the arrangements made by the Cocoa Group would allow it to discharge its mandate effectively.

V(c) Coffee

31. At its Twenty-Eighth Session, the Committee had noted that, pursuant to an earlier recommendation by it, the Director-General had consulted member governments on the desirability of holding an ad hoc intergovernmental meeting on coffee. Replies from governments had indicated that such a meeting should be held; but in view of the work being undertaken by the Special Commission on Coffee of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, the Committee decided to postpone a decision on the date, place and agenda of such a meeting until such time as the results of this work could be made known.

32. At its present session, the Committee was informed of the present status of this work and concluded that the present stage would not yet be appropriate for the calling of an FAO ad hoc meeting which, in principle, it had been decided to convene at an appropriate date. At the same time, it was emphasized that an eventual FAO meeting would not only provide a forum for wider participation than was the case in the discussions at present proceeding in the Special Commission on Coffee but would also ensure full representation of consumers' interest, as well as of those of producers. The Committee, therefore, agreed that this matter be kept on its agenda until further notice. In the meantime, the Committee asked the Director-General to continue the study of the coffee problem and to maintain close contact with the work of the Special Commission on Coffee.

V(d) Dairy Products

33. The Committee, through its Panel on Dairy Products established at the Twenty-Eighth Session, reviewed:-

- (i) progress on requests for international co-operative action;
- (ii) selected aspects of world dairy development;
- (iii) activities of organizations in the establishment of milk processing plants;
- (iv) the progress on the dairy products study of international effects of national policies;
- (v) a request from the Government of the Netherlands for an additional item for consideration by the Panel; and
- (vi) the scope of and the arrangements for the Panel's work.

(i). Progress on Requests for International Co-operative Action

34. The Chairman of the Washington Group on Dried Skim Milk reported progress made at Calcutta and referred to the Second Progress Report prepared by the Government of India and circulated to the Panel as document JCP/DP/57/5. He also outlined the view of the Washington Group as to procedures for the consideration of further requests for international assistance.

35. Mr. van Dan (Netherlands) who was leader of the team from exporting countries which visited Pakistan in September/October to formulate specific proposals, reported the conclusions of the team's report. In reply to a question as to the possibility of UNICEF's participation in any international assistance for dairy development in Pakistan, the UNICEF representative said that this was under consideration.

36. The delegate from Pakistan emphasized the urgency of the matter and requested that the next steps in the consideration of the team's report should be carried out as quickly as possible.

37. With regard to the requests from the Government of India for consideration of possible international co-operative action in Bombay and Poona, the Secretariat stated that the necessary evaluation survey would be carried out by FAO possibly in conjunction with UNICEF, early in 1958.

(ii) Selected Aspects of World Dairy Development

38. The Panel had a general discussion on five short papers prepared by the Secretariat on "Selected Aspects of World Dairy Development" circulated as document CCP/DP/57/4.

(iii) Activities of Organizations in the Establishment of Milk Processing Plants

39. As requested by CCP at its last Session the Secretariat had prepared a preliminary paper (document CCP/DP/57/3) outlining the activities of UNICEF and the Colombo Plan with special reference to economic aspects. The Panel also heard a statement from the UNICEF representative.

40. The Secretariat was asked to prepare additional information on the activities of other agencies (e.g. International Cooperation Administration and Dairy Society International) active in this field. The Panel will then consider the problem of coordination in the light of existing machinery.

(iv) International Effects of National Policies: Dairy Products Study

41. As requested by the CCP at its Twenty-Seventh Session the Secretariat had prepared a draft document on "Dairy Policies in Selected Countries". The Secretariat was asked to classify this material on a comparative basis after any corrections to the text had been notified by the countries concerned.

(v) Netherlands Request for an Additional Agenda Item

42. As the request of the Government of the Netherlands the Director-General had circulated (document CCP/DP/57/2) an exchange of correspondence regarding a review of FAO's work in the field of dairying. In view of the information arising out of the Panel's discussion of the above items, the Netherlands delegate agreed that no further action be taken on this request.

(vi) Scope of, and Arrangements for, the Work of the Dairy Panel

43. The suggestion was made that in dealing with production, trade and prices of dairy products, at future Sessions the Dairy Panel should consider specific problems and not general reviews which could appropriately be dealt with by CCP. It was suggested that the Panel should act as a discussion group on specific economic policy issues and that notice should be given well in advance so as to enable adequate documentation. It was stressed that responsibility rests with delegates to advise the Secretariat as early as possible the subjects upon which discussion is desired.

44. The CCP was satisfied that at its next session there would be sufficient material to justify reconvening the Panel.

V(e). Consultations and Future Action on Olive Oil

45. The CCP noted that the draft International Olive Oil Agreement was still under consideration by governments whose participation was necessary to bring the agreement into operation, and that a decision on the draft might be expected not later than January 1958.

46. The Committee was very pleased to learn from the Delegate for Spain that his Government had decided to sign the Agreement.

V(f). Action Arising from Conference Resolution No. 10/55 on Establishment of Group on Hard Fibres

47. The Committee again considered Resolution No. 10/55 of the Eighth Session of the FAO Conference which had requested it to consider the desirability of setting up a group on hard fibres. To give effect to this request of the Conference, the Committee had placed the item on the Agenda of its Twenty-Seventh and Twenty-Eighth, as well as its present Sessions. There being no indication that the governments which originally sponsored the Resolution now wished to pursue the matter, it was agreed that the item should now be removed from the Agenda unless governments interested in the commodity group should request its consideration. At the same time, the Committee noted that in line with an earlier request by the Government of the Philippine Republic the Director-General had started a fairly comprehensive study on hard fibres which was being continued and on which the Committee was being informed from time to time.

V. INTERNATIONAL EFFECTS OF NATIONAL POLICIES

48. There was no discussion of the report of the Working Party on National Support Measures which was considered at the last Session and will be submitted to the Conference together with the Committee's comments of the Twenty-Eighth Session.

49. In accordance with the request made by the Committee at its Twenty-Seventh Session, the Secretariat submitted the draft of a factual survey of dairy policies in selected countries. Further action to be taken in this matter is reported under V(d)(iv) above.

VII. MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS SINCE MARCH 1957

50. The Committee took note of document CCP 57/21 reviewing recent developments under this heading.

VIII. REPORT OF AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF FAO

51. The Committee took note of the paper CCP 57/20 prepared by the Director-General at the request of the Council of FAO setting out the manner in which the functions and procedures of the Committee would be affected if either of the plans presented by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Organizational Structure of FAO were adopted.

52. The Committee stressed the desirability that its present terms of reference should be maintained.^{1/}

53. The Committee attached considerable importance to maintaining its present powers to decide on the periodicity and timing of its sessions in accordance with the requirements of its work. It had fully in mind the need for the utmost economy in this matter, and pointed out that in recent years its usual practice had been to hold only three sessions over a two-year period.

^{1/} The Terms of Reference of the Committee are given in Annex I to this Report.

54. While the Committee recognized that on matters requiring executive action by the Council or Conference any recommendations made in its reports must be subject to the approval of these bodies, nevertheless it was strongly of the opinion that the present practice of preparing and issuing to governments its reports and the reports of its subsidiary bodies in final form should be retained.

IX. PRESS RELEASES

55. In the light of past experience, the Committee reviewed with the Divisions concerned the procedures followed by FAO in the preparation and issuance of press releases.

X. DATE, PLACE AND AGENDA OF THE THIRTIETH SESSION AND OF SESSIONS OF CCP COMMODITY GROUPS

X(a). Date and Agenda of Thirtieth Session

56. The Committee agreed that its next Session should be held during the second half of June 1958, to last for about two weeks, and that its Provisional agenda, subject to further changes arising from Council and Conference discussions and other new factors should be as follows :

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTIETH SESSION

- I. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
- II. Adoption of Provisional Agenda
- III. Adoption of Summary Record of Twenty-Ninth Session
- IV. Report of the Ninth Session of the Conference
- V. Major Developments in the World Agricultural Commodity Situation since the Ninth Session of the Conference
- VI. Reports of CCP Commodity Groups and Related Matters
 - (a) FAO Group on Grains
 - (b) Consultative Sub-Committee on the Economic Aspects of Rice
 - (c) FAO Group on Coconut and Coconut Products
 - (d) FAO Cocoa Study Group
 - (e) Coffee
 - (f) Dairy Products
 - (g) Consultations and Future Action on Olive Oil
- VII. Surplus Disposal
 - (a) Seventh Report of the Consultative Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal
 - (b) Report of the Consultative Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal Regarding Operation and Adequacy of FAO Principles of Surplus Disposal
- VIII. National Food Reserves

- IX. National Support Policies and other National Measures and their International Effects
- X. Major Developments in Intergovernmental Commodity Consultations and Arrangements since the Twenty-Ninth Session of the CCP
- XI. Date, Place and Agenda of the Thirty-First Session and of Sessions of CCP Commodity Groups
- XII. Other Business.

X(b). CCP Commodity Groups

57. The Committee noted that the First Session of the FAO Group on Coconut and Coconut Products was going to be held at FAO Headquarters during the week beginning 25 November 1957 and that arrangements were being made for the Second Session of the Consultative Sub-Committee on the Economic Aspects of Rice to be held some time between the middle of January and the end of February 1958, at a place still to be determined by the Director-General.

58. The Committee agreed that the Second Session of the FAO Group on Grains should be held in Rome and should, if possible, be scheduled for the two weeks immediately preceding the Thirtieth Session of the CCP.

59. It was noted that consideration would also have to be given by the Director-General to the timing of the Third Session of the FAO Cocoa Group which had been tentatively scheduled for the first half of June but for which another date might possibly be found preferable by the Group itself.

XI. CLOSURE OF TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

60. The Committee declared its Twenty-Ninth Session adjourned instead of declaring it closed, in case it might be necessary to take early action on commodity matters arising out of the Ninth Session of the Conference. However, in the absence of any further meeting of this Session being called by the Director-General prior to the Council's election of a new membership of the Committee, the Twenty-Ninth Session will be considered to have been closed with the expiration of the Committee's present term of membership.

ANNEX I

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF CCP

The Committee's original terms of reference were set out by the Fifth Session of the FAO Conference in 1949 in a resolution whereby the Conference established "a Committee on Commodity Problems, which will work under the supervision of and be responsible to the Council of FAO. The Council shall, on request of the Committee, transmit any report of the Committee to member governments and the next regular session of the Conference, together with any comments the Council may wish to make. This Committee will be advisory and will address its attention primarily to the food and agricultural surplus commodity situation arising from balance-of-payments difficulties".

These original terms of reference were considerably widened by the Special Session of the FAO Conference in November 1950, when the Conference resolved:-

- "(a) that a committee on commodity problems shall continue to operate and shall be regarded as the instrument of FAO to analyse and interpret the international commodity situation and to advise the Council on suitable action;
- (b) that its terms of reference shall be those laid down by the Fifth Session of the Conference, save that the Committee will address its attention to commodity problems falling within the competence of FAO to consider, whether arising from balance-of-payments difficulties or from other causes."

The Sixth Session of the Conference adopted Resolution No. 12, which stated:-

"The Conference,

"Conscious of the importance to the Council that adequate studies in regard to international commodities should continue to be made and that advice on suitable action should continue to be given,

"Taking note of the work which is being done by the Committee on Commodity Problems in this field,

"Considering that discussions in the Committee should take place between government representatives who are fully informed of the problems which arise or are likely to arise,

"Draws the attention of Member Nations to the importance of this work;

"Requests the Council to instruct the Committee to continue and extend its work in this field in the light of the views expressed by the Conference and to remind the Committee of its competence to set up working groups and to invite countries not represented on the Committee to participate in its deliberations, with full powers when subjects on which they are specially informed are under discussion;

"Requests Member Nations participating in the Committee to ensure that their representatives are suitably qualified."

The Seventh Session of the Conference (1953) - "Re-examined the terms of reference of the Committee on Commodity Problems and found that they were generally adequate for the tasks which the Committee had been, or might be, called upon to perform. It noted that events had confirmed the wisdom of the decision taken by the Special Session of the FAO Conference in November 1950 to widen the Committee's original terms of reference by resolving that it should be regarded as the instrument of FAO to analyse and interpret the international commodity situation and advise the Council on suitable action, and that it should address its attention to commodity problems falling within the competence of FAO to consider, whether arising from balance-of-payments difficulties or from other causes. Consequently, the Conference decided to keep the expanded terms of reference of the Committee and invited it to interpret these terms of reference in their widest sense. At the same time, the Conference stressed the current practical significance, in the light of certain developments in the field of commodity trade and policy, of the Committee's original terms of reference which still formed the nucleus of the present widened version; namely, its assignment as an intergovernmental body for the consideration of problems of surpluses of agricultural products, and of methods for dealing with them." The Conference also agreed that "both the more acute character of certain current and prospective commodity problems and the specialized nature of some of these questions made it desirable to make more use, on conditions carefully determined in each case, of special working parties".

ANNEX I I

LIST OF DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS

(Chairman: J.F. Yriart (Uruguay))

MEMBERS:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Name and Title</u>
ARGENTINA	M.A. Ferrando, Consejero Económico, Embajada Argentina
	W. Mangiavacchi, Secretario del Delegado.
AUSTRALIA	F.O. Grogan, Senior Economist, Department of Trade, Canberra.
	J.M. Clark, Supervising Research Officer, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Canberra.
	K. Cook, Commercial Counsellor, Australian Legation.
BRAZIL	A. de Viana, Minister for Economic Affairs, Brazilian Embassy.
BURMA	Thakin San We, Member, State Agricultural Marketing Board, Rangoon.
	U Than Maung, Deputy General Manager, State Agricultural Marketing Board, Rangoon.
CANADA	S.C. Hudson, Assistant Director, Agriculture and Fisheries Branch, Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa.
	C.F. Wilson, Commercial Counsellor, Canadian Embassy, Copenhagen.
	F. Shefrin, Senior Economist, Economics Division, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.
CEYLON	H.A.J. Hulugalle, Minister for Ceylon in Italy.
	B. Subramniam, Secretary, Ceylon Legation.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Name and Title</u>
CUBA	I. Estefano, Consejero Economico de Embajada de Cuba.
DENMARK	V. Andersen, Counsellor, Ministry of Agriculture. C. Valentin Hansen, Agricultural Attaché, Danish Embassy.
FRANCE	G.H. Janton, Contrôleur d'Etat, Ministère des Affaires Economiques, et Finan- Paris. cières, A.L. Wallon, Administrateur Civil, Ministère de l'Agriculture, Paris.
GERMANY	W. Weber, Counsellor, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry, Bonn. I. Hoffman, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry, Bonn.
INDIA	R.N. Poduval, Deputy Economic and Statistical Adviser, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, New Delhi. N.T. Gulrajani, Embassy of India.
INDONESIA	R. Soetijo, Agricultural Attaché, Indonesian Embassy. Oemarjadi Njotowijono, Commercial Counsellor, Indonesian Embassy.
JAPAN	Kanzo Edahiro, First Secretary (Agriculture), Japanese Embassy.
LIBERIA	J.M. Dukuly, Assistant-Secretary of Agriculture, Monrovia.
NETHERLANDS	J.A.P. Franke, Director General of Food, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, The Hague. B. van Dam, President, Dairy Produce Board, The Hague.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Name and Title</u>
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	H. Riem, International Organizations Div., Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, The Hague.
NEW ZEALAND	D.W. Woodward, Commercial Counsellor, New Zealand Embassy, Washington, D.C.
	A.W. Broadbent, Executive Officer, Trade Section, Department of Industries and Commerce, Wellington.
PAKISTAN	Nazir Ahmed, Agricultural Attaché, Pakistan Embassy.
SPAIN	F. de Galainena, Agregado de Economía Exterior, Embajada de Espana.
	G. Escardó, Agregado Agrónomo, Embajada de Espana.
THAILAND	Luang Thavil, Under-Secretary of Economic Affairs, Bangkok.
	Bundhit Kantabutra, Chief of the National Income Division, National Economic Council of Thailand, Bangkok.
	B. Kulananan, Chief of Commodities Division, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bangkok.
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA	S.J.J. de Swardt, Under Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Pretoria.
	A.W.O. Bock, Manager, South African Wheat Board, Pretoria.
	J.J.M. Tromp, Manager, Maize Control Board, Pretoria.
	O.F. de V. Booysen, Second Secretary, South African Embassy.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Name and Title</u>
UNITED KINGDOM	M. Compton, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, London.
	K.C. Christofas, First Secretary, British Embassy.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Richard H. Roberts, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service, Department of Agriculture, Washington.
	T.C.M. Robinson, Assistant Chief, Commodities Division, Office of International Resources, Department of State, Washington.
	Paul S. Findlen, Assistant Agricultural Attaché, U.S. Embassy.
	L. Ingemann Highby, Commodities Division, Office of International Resources, Department of State, Washington.
URUGUAY	J.F. Yriart, Minister for Uruguay in Sweden and Finland.

OBSERVERS:

<u>Country</u>	
AUSTRIA	A. Tarter, Secretary, Austrian Legation.
BELGIUM	P. d'Ottroppe, Président, Comité National Belge de la FAO, Brussels.
BOLIVIA	E. Cerlini, Consul for Bolivia in Rome.
CHILE	M. Vargara, Ministro Consejero de la Embajada, y Representante en Chile ante la FAO
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Porfirio Carias Dominici, Secretary, Embassy of the Dominican Republic.
EGYPT	H.F. El Issawi, Commercial Counsellor, Egyptian Embassy.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Name and Title</u>
EL SALVADOR	J.C. Chavez, Encargado de Negocios, a.i., Embassy of El Salvador.
FINLAND	E.J. Korpela, Director of M.T.K. (Finnish Farmers' Union) Helsinki.
GREECE	P. Loverdos, Délégué Permanent Suppléant.
HOLY SEE	E. Bonomelli, Directeur des Villas Pontificales.
IRELAND	D. Waldron, Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Irish Legation.
ISRAEL	A. Halevi, Director, Food Department, Ministry of Trade and Industry.
ITALY	M. de Pascale, Direttore Generale, Alto Commissariato dell'Alimentazione. M. Lariccia, Capo di Divisione, Alto Commissariato dell'Alimentazione. A. d'Errico, Capo Sezione, Alto Commissariato dell'Alimentazione. S. Carrarino, Direttore di Divisione, Ministero Industria e Commercio. M. Pelo, Direttore di Divisione, Ministero Industria e Commercio. F. de la Rosa, Direttore di Sezione, Ministero Industria e Commercio. A. Dommarco, Consigliere di I Classe, Ministero Industria e Commercio. G. Pittoni, Capo di Divisione, Ministero Agricoltura e Foreste, Direzione Generale della Tutela Economica dei prodotti agricoli. A. Cancrini, Capo di Divisione, Ministero Agricoltura e Foreste, Direzione Generale della Tutela Economica dei prodotti agricoli. G. Marzano, Capo di Divisione, Ministero Agricoltura e Foreste, Direzione Generale della Tutela Economica dei prodotti agricoli.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Name and Title</u>
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	A. Froni, Esperto, Ministero Agricoltura e Foreste, Direzione Generale della Tutela Economica dei prodotti agricoli.
	D. Valento, Ministero Agricoltura e Foreste, Direzione Generale della Tutela Economica dei prodotti agricoli.
	V. de Asarta, Segretario, Comitato Nazionale Italiano, della F.I.O.
	A. Perone, Comitato Nazionale Italiano della F.A.O.
MEXICO	M. Garza Ramos, Consejero de Embajada de Mexico.
NICARAGUA	M. d'Escoto, Ambassador in Italy.
NORWAY	O. Angell, Commercial Counsellor, Norwegian Embassy.
PORTUGAL	F. Lopes Vieira, Chargé d'Affaires, Portugese Embassy.
SWEDEN	E. Virgin, Counsellor, Swedish Embassy.
SWITZERLAND	A. Schür, Swiss National F.A.O. Committee.
	A. Borel, Ancien Sous-Directeur de l'Union Suisse des Paysans.
	H. Massy, Union Centrale des Producteurs Suisse de Lait.
TUNISIA	B. Ben Njima, Chef du Cabinet du Secrétariat, d'Etat, Ministère du Commerce et de l'Industrie.
TURKEY	N. Alpın, Adatto Commerciale, Turkish Embassy.
YUGOSLAVIA	A. Blazevic, Secretary, Yugoslav Embassy.

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Name and Title</u>
EUROPEAN CONFEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE	M. Collaud, Secretary-General.
INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT	Jan Willems, Economist.
INTERNATIONAL DAIRY FEDERATION	A.M. Guérault, 1st. Vice-President.
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS	R. Savary, Secretary General. O.S. Osmond, Commodity Officer. R. Miller, Commodity Officer.
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF OLIVE GROWERS	J. Ben Cherifa, President. F. Montanari, Vice-Président Permanent à Rome. R. They, Délégué aux Affaires Internationales.
INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL	F. Sheed Anderson, Chairman. R. Gherson, Assistant to Chairman.
INTERNATIONAL WOOL TEXTILE ORGANIZATION	R. Dodi.
ORGANIZATION FOR EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION	A. Dehceger.