

FAO Conference
First Session

PLENARY

P R O C E E D I N G S

of the

Eighth Plenary Meeting of the First Session
of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture
Organization of the United Nations, held in
the Ballroom, Chateau Frontenac, Quebec City,
Canada, Saturday, October 27, 1945,
at 2:30 P.M.

Hon. L.B. Pearson, Chairman, presiding.

MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE PRESENT:

AUSTRALIA	R.J. Noble
BELGIUM	Arthur Wauters
BRAZIL	Laurival Fontes
CANADA	G.S.H. Barton
CHINA	P.W. Tsou
COLOMBIA	G.E. Suarez
CUBA	E. Perez Cisneros
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	Oskar Malis
DENMARK	Henrik de Kauffmann
EGYPT	Butros Bassili
FRANCE	André Mayer
GREECE	Nicholas G. Lély
GUATEMALA	F.L. Herrarte
HAITI	Edouard Baker
HONDURÁS	J.R. Cáceres
ICELAND	Thor Thors
INDIA	D.R. Sethi
IRAQ	Ali Jawdat
LIBERIA	F.A. Price
LUXEMBOURG	Hugues Le Gallais

MEXICO	M.J. Zevada
NETHERLANDS	S.L. Louwes
NEW ZEELAND	David Wilson
NICARAGUA	A. Sevilla-Sacasa
NORWAY	Anders Fjelstad
PANAMA	J.E. Heurtematte
PERU	Juan Chávez
PHILLIPINES	Maximo Kalaw
POLAND	Stanislaw Mikolajczyk
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA	P.R. Viljoen
U.S.S.R.	M. Lavrichenko
UNITED KINGDOM	P.J. Noel Baker
UNITED STATES	H.R. Tolley
YUGOSLAVIA	Ivan Randić

OBSERVERS PRESENT:

LEBANON	M.J. Tabet
SYRIA	Husni A. Sawwaf
UKRAINE S.S.R.	P.V. Rudnitsky

AIRMAN: Will the Conference please come to order.

oing to ask the Secretary-General to make one or two
cements before we begin the business of the after-
meeting.

CRETARY-GENERAL: The changes in arrangements for
tee meetings this afternoon are; The Panel on
butions of the Finance Committee will meet at 4 P:M
mittee Room 3, and the Finance Committee, itself,
eet in the same room at 4:30 P.M.

AIRMAN: At an informal meeting this morning of the
of Delegations we indicated the subjects which would
the agenda for this afternoon's meeting.

rst of those subjects is the following Third Report
General Committee to the Conference;

ding to Article XXI, paragraph I, of the Temporary
of Procedure, the General Committee shall submit
endations in regard to the terms and conditions
ing the appointment of the Director-General. The
l Committee, therefore, submits the following
endations:

"(a) The first Director-General shall serve from
the date of his appointment by this Session of the
Conference until December 31, 1947, on which date
his appointment shall be terminated. In recommend-
ing a determinate term of office for the first
appointee, the Committee wishes to make clear that
it has no intention of establishing a precedent
thereby. This recommendation is made because of

exceptional circumstances. The Committee favors as the general rule indeterminate appointments and continuity of tenure for the office of Director-General.

"(b) The Director-General shall receive an annual salary of \$ U.S.18,000, and a representation allowance of \$ U.S.10,000. This salary and allowance may be adjusted to take account of any exemption from taxation accorded to the Director-General by way of diplomatic privilege or otherwise and any variation in his cost of living resulting from a change in the seat of the Organization.

"(c) If any question of interpretation or dispute arises on the terms of his contract an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice shall be obtained by the usual procedure and adopted, or, alternatively, the matter shall be submitted for determination to such arbitral tribunal as the Conference shall appoint.

"In the contract which will be drawn up and signed by the Director-General and by the Chairman of the Conference, as provided in the Temporary Rules, provisions for termination of the appointment will be included, as well as certain other routine provisions.

For the Committee

(Signed) L.B. Pearson,
Chairman."

As Chairman of the General Committee I submit its Third Report to the Conference for its consideration.

Would any Member of the Conference move its adoption?

MEMBER FROM MEXICO: I move the adoption of the Report.

MEMBER FROM NICARAGUA: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by the Member from Mexico and seconded by the Member from Nicaragua, that this Report be adopted. Those in favor of the adoption of this Report please signify by raising their right hands.

(The meeting agreed to the motion unanimously.)

THE CHAIRMAN: The Report is hereby adopted.

The next item of business is the Report of the General Committee on the nomination for the office of Director-General.

Under Article XXI of the Temporary Rules of Procedure the General Committee is obliged to propose to the Conference a nominee for appointment to the office of Director-General.

The General Committee unanimously desires to nominate Sir Boyd Orr to the Conference as the first Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Member from The United States of America has the floor.

MEMBER FROM THE UNITED STATES: Mr. Chairman, I move that the Conference accept this Report of the General Committee, thus making this distinguished scientist, eminent scholar, experienced legislator, and successful farmer the first Director-General of FAO.

THE CHAIRMAN: I call upon the Member of the Conference from France.

MEMBER FROM FRANCE: J'ai l'honneur de considérer la motion qui a été mise en avant par le représentant des Etats Unis. Ce faisant, je suis heureux de pouvoir exprimer l'admiration que la délégation française a pour Sir John Orr et pour sa très belle oeuvre.

(Translation)

MEMBER FROM FRANCE: I have the honor to second the motion put forward by the Member from the United States. It gives me great pleasure to express the admiration of the French Delegation for Sir John Orr and for his very excellent work.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by the Member from the United States of America, seconded by the Member from France, that the report of the General Committee be adopted. Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

If not, those in favor of the adoption of this report please so signify.

(The meeting agreed to the motion unanimously.)

THE CHAIRMAN: The report is adopted unanimously, and Sir John Boyd Orr is the first Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

(Prolonged applause.)

I think, gentlemen, the Organization had done itself honor and credit in the election of Sir John Boyd Orr to this post. I am sure you would like to have him formally inducted and introduced to you.

So, without further remarks from me, I will ask Sir John, that great international Scot, to come forward.

I present to you our Director-General, Sir John Boyd Orr.

SIR JOHN BOYD ORR: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: I am sure that you will not expect me to make any long speech today. Any person called to this so very important post on such short notice must feel confused and find it difficult to collect his thoughts.

I would like to say, though, that I do appreciate the very high honor which has been conferred upon me by nominating me to this post, and I assure you that I feel more deeply the very great responsibility one has in accepting it.

I would like, for a few minutes, Sir, if you will allow me, to say a few words about the relationship of FAO to world affairs of today. I think most of you will agree that we are now passing through the greatest crisis in the history of our civilization. That crisis has been brought about by the advance of science. In the last forty years science has advanced more than it did in the previous two thousand years. Physical science has let loose tremendous new forces into the world. Mr. Chairman, those forces cannot be bottled up; they must either be harnessed to serve the ends of mankind, or they will break loose in a riot of destruction.

How those forces are used will effect all nations equally. The world is now so small that any war will be a world war; any prosperity must be a world prosperity. Governments realize this, and they are, therefore, attempting to set up world organizations which will enable those powers of science to be applied on a world scale. It is very fitting, Sir, that FAO should be the first of these organizations. It deals with the primary products of land and sea; it deals with food - the primary necessity of life.

Let me say a word about what FAO must accomplish. Each nation has accepted the responsibility, which indeed, must be the responsibility of any government, to provide, as far as possible, food and a health standard for all the peoples it governs. But something new has arisen. All the governments have agreed to cooperate in a great world food scheme, which will bring freedom from want of food to all men, irrespective of race or color.

I ask you for a moment to consider what the great results will be. In the first place, disease and misery and premature death, which afflict the majority of the people

of this planet, will, to a large extent, be replaced by health, by happiness, and by life.

But other results will follow. If the nations of the world are going to get together to feed the people of the world, they must increase the production of the most important foods. In many cases that production must be more than doubled. This will bring prosperity to agriculture. There should be no slump in agriculture after this war, such as after the last war, and prosperity in agriculture must overflow into other businesses and into world trade.

But, Sir, we do these things not because they will bring prosperity, but because they are right. We have now reached the stage, I hope, when we realize that if we put first things first, and do the things which we know to be right, a great many social, economic, and political difficulties will disappear.

There is one further thing which to my mind is the most important of all. In this great world crisis, governments, feeling they must cooperate, find it difficult to cooperate. I am sure the sympathies of every thinking individual must be with the statesmen, foreign secretaries, prime ministers, and so on, who are trying their best, under the most appalling circumstances, to bring order out of world chaos and to offset all the racial hatreds, evil ambitions, and all the other evils of the past, which we hoped had disappeared in the war.

Here we have a scheme in which we have agreed to cooperate, a scheme which will bring important benefits to all nations. In cooperating in this world food scheme, based upon the needs of mankind, we will be developing an atmosphere of good will. Governments will thus learn to trust each other, and will see the spirit of the good neighbor beginning to appear in most of the nations of the world.

These are the things which to my mind FAO has set out to do. The great promotion of human welfare, prosperity in agriculture, prosperity in industry, and prosperity in trade, all make contributions to world unity. You say it is a dream? Then, it is the business of FAO to make that dream come true.

These things are easy to say; they are very difficult to do. Those who have been working on these problems for years realize the enormous difficulties which face us. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, I am almost tempted to say that if this Organization succeeds it will perform a miracle. Well, we are living in a day of miracles. We performed them during the war, and one of the most important of all was getting nations to cooperate for the

achievement of the one great end - the mutual benefit of all.

Well, these difficulties have to be faced. The vision we have of the new world which FAO can begin to build must inspire us with the faith, confidence, and hope which will enable us to overcome, one by one, the difficulties which we find.

I hope you do not expect me to speak today about the organization of FAO. It will need a good deal of study, even with all the documents which have been prepared, to make quite sure we step off with the right foot. We dare not delay that organization, considering the position of the world, which is so urgently in need of FAO.

On the other hand, we dare not make a wrong step. But there is one thing I would like to say, and that is that we will need a considerable staff to run FAO. Mr. Chairman, there will be no jobs in the ordinary sense of the term in FAO. Anybody who joins this Organization - and I hope that any person who is asked, or any person upon whom the draft falls, will accept service with FAO - will have to make very big sacrifices. They will have to relinquish their own nationality; they will have to become citizens of the world; and they will have to realize that the Hottentots of Africa and the Aborigines of Australia are as dear to them as the peoples to whom they belong. They must set aside their present ambitions, and be prepared to give their lives to this great cause.

In conclusion may I say that I hope all the members of the Delegations assembled here feel that they are present at a great, historic occasion. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that one hundred years hence the historians of that day will look back on this occasion, this October 1945, in Quebec, and will date the beginning of the new world from this great Conference.

I hope that upon their return to their own countries all delegates will report to their governments that this Organization has been launched in a spirit of great good will, and that it has been set on its course to make its great contribution to the promotion of human welfare and to the unity of the nations of the world. I also hope that all delegates will inspire their governments with the enthusiasm which has been generated at this Conference, so that all the nations will put their resources of men and materials at the service of this great Organization, which will have the great honor of laying the first stone in the foundation of that great new world which modern science has made possible.

(Prolonged applause.)