

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Item 30 of the  
Provisional Agenda

C 53/48  
1 July 1953

CONFERENCE OF FAO

Seventh Session

(23 November, 1953)

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

1. It is the duty of the Conference, in conformity with Article V Paragraph 2 of the Constitution, to appoint an independent chairman of the Council.

Rule XXIV, para. 1 of the Rules of Procedure, states:  
"The Chairman of the Council shall be appointed for two years under the following conditions:

- (a) The appointment of the Chairman shall be placed on the Agenda of each regular session of the Conference. Before, however, the appointment is considered in a plenary meeting, the General Committee shall submit a nomination (or nominations).
- (b) The conditions of appointment of the Chairman, including the allowances attached to the office, shall be determined by the Conference on the occasion of each appointment, having regard to any recommendations of the General Committee."

2. The attention of the Conference is drawn to the following Resolutions which were adopted at the Sixth Session:

Resolution No. 79

"The Conference --

Having received recommendations from the General Committee as laid down in Rule XXIV,

Decides that the conditions and allowances pertaining to the office of the Chairman of the Council will be:

- (a) An annual allowance of the equivalent of \$5,000 to cover representation expenses and secretarial assistance in the Chairman's home station, on the understanding that the Director-General will provide secretarial assistance when the Chairman attends meetings of the Conference or Council held at Headquarters or elsewhere. This allowance shall be payable in part in the currency of the home country of the Chairman or in lire, according to his desire.

- b) A per diem allowance of \$20.00 while the Chairman is absent from his home station on Council business, this allowance being reduced to \$10.00 per diem while the Chairman is actually travelling.
- c) The cost of his direct round-trip fare from his home station to the place of meeting of the Council and Conference, or to any other place, when the Chairman makes a trip in connection with Council affairs.

Resolution No. 80

" The Conference --

After having proceeded, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XII to a secret ballot, the result of which has been in favor of Mr. Josue de Castro,  
Declares unanimously that Mr. Josue de Castro is appointed independent Chairman of the Council for a period of two years, until the conclusion of the Seventh Session of the Conference. "

- 3. With regard to the procedure for the appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council no established procedure exists. In order to facilitate the work of the Conference, the Council at its Seventeenth Session invited Member Governments to inform the General Committee of the Conference, at the opening of the Session, of the names of candidates they may wish to present for the foregoing position. The Council noted that it is the responsibility of the General Committee to present nominations; and it recommended that the Conference request the General Committee to establish the end of the third day of the Session as a time limit for the presentation by Member Governments of such names. This would avoid the embarrassment of last minute nominations and allow a time-lag between the closing date for nominations and the actual elections, during which delegates would have time to communicate with and receive replies from their governments on the subject.

Born September 5th. 1908, in Recife,  
Pernambuco-Brasil.

CURRICULUM VITAE

- 1 - Doctor in Medicine (M.D.) by the National School of Medicine - (University of Brasil) - 1929.
- 2 - Post-graduation Course in the United States of America, 1930

PRESENT ACTIVITIES:

- 1 - Professor of Human Geography (National College of Philosophy - University of Brasil, since 1939.
- 2 - Director of "Nutrition Institute" (University of Brasil).
- 3 - Professor of Nutrition (Course for Public Health Physicians) National Department of Public Health, since 1939.
- 4 - Professor of Food and Nutrition in post-graduated courses - University of Brasil - College of Medicine. (Since 1940).
- 5 - President of the Brazilian Society of Nutrition since 1942.
- 6 - Chairman of the "Brazilian Food Commission".
- 7 - President of the Hygiene and Food Education Committee (Commission for the future "Brazilian Food Act) since February, 1947
- 8 - Head of the Department of Geography and member of the Departmental Council (College of Philosophy) - University of Brasil.
- 9 - Member of the University Council (University of Brasil)
- 10 - Chairman of the National Committee of F.A.O.

PAST ACTIVITIES:

- 1 - President of the Brazilian Student's Commission visiting Mexico in 1930.
- 2 - Assistant Professor of Philosophy in the College of Medicine of Recife since 1932.
- 3 - Professor of Human Geography in the College of Philosophy and Social Sciences of Recife (1933/35).
- 4 - Vice-director of the College of Philosophy and Social Sciences - Recife (1933/35)
- 5 - Professor of Anthropology in the University of the Federal District (1935/38)
- 6 - Visiting Professor in the Universities of Rome and Naples where he gave a course of lectures in 1939, about "Food

and Acclimation in the Tropics".

- 7 - Organizer and first Director of "Serviço de Alimentação e Providência Social (SAPS)", a department in charge of rationalizing the food habits of Brazilian workmen.
- 8 - Official guest of the Argentine Government, in 1942, for studying the rational employment of wheat in the manufacture of bread.
- 9 - Official guest of the U.S. Government in 1943, for studying nutrition problems.
- 10 - Official guest of the Republica de San Domingos in 1945 where he gave some lectures on Nutrition in the University of Santo Domingos.
- 11 - Official guest of the Mexican Government in order to give a course of lectures in the Universidad Nacional de Mexico.
- 12 - Head of the National Technical Bureau of Food a department in charge of co-ordinating the food problems in Brasil during the war period (1942-44).
- 13 - Member of the Commission in charge of the organization of the University of Recife.
- 14 - President of the Food Technology Section of the First Bromatologico Meeting - S. Paulo, Brasil (1946).
- 15 - Chairman of the II Latin American Conference of Nutrition - Rio - 1950.

#### SCIENTIFIC DIPLOMAS AND MEMBERSHIPS:

- 1 - Professor Honoris-Causa - University of Santo Domingo -(1945)
- 2 - Professor Honoris Causa - University of San Marco - Lima Peru
- 3 - Honorary Member - San Domingos Medical Association
- 4 - Honorary Member - "Sociedade Acadêmica de Medicina" - Recife-Pernambuco - Brasil
- 5 - Honorary Member of the Academy of Medicine, Lima
- 6 - Correspondent Member - Italian Committee for the Studies of Population Problems (Roma)
- 7 - Correspondent Member - Nutrition Foundation, New York-U.S.A.
- 8 - Honorary Member - "Liga Uruguaia" Against Rheumatism.
- 9 - Effectif Member - Brazilian Institute of Law, Medicine and Social Insurance".
- 10 - Honorary Member - Brazilian Society of Biology
- 11 - Member - Interamerican Society of Anthropology and Geography
- 12 - Member of American Academy of Political and Social Science

- 13 - Member of the Brazilian Institute of Education, Science and Culture affiliated to the UNESCO

LITERATURE

"O PROBLEMA DA ALIMENTAÇÃO NO BRASIL" - Comp. Editora Nacional 1a., 2a., e 3a. edições - 1933, 1934, 1939 (The problem of food in Brazil)

Standard of Living of the working classes in Recife "CONDIÇÕES DE VIDA DAS CLASSES OPERÁRIAS NO RECIFE" - 1935.

"SALÁRIO MÍNIMO" - Minimum wages in Brazil - 1935

"ALIMENTAÇÃO E RAÇA" (Food and Races) - Civilização Brasileira 1936

"DOCUMENTÁRIO DO NORDESTE" - (Living aspects of Nordeste of Brazil) - Livraria José Olímpio Editora - 1937

"ALIMENTAÇÃO BRASILEIRA À LUZ DA GEOGRAFIA HUMANA" (The Problem of Food in Brazil, in the light of Human Geography) - (Prêmio Alberto Torres) - 1937

"SCIENCE ET TECHNIQUE" - (Edição do Ministério da Educação) - 1938

"A FESTA DAS LETRAS" (Fair of Letters) - em colaboração com Cecília Meirelles - Livraria do Globo - 1938.

"FISIOLOGIA DOS TABUS" - (Physiology of Tabous) - 1a. edição - 1939 - 2a. edição 1941.

"GEOGRAFIA HUMANA" (Human Geography) - 1939.

Geografia da Fome. (Geography of Hunger) - 1946.

BOOKS WHICH HAVE BEEN TRANSLATED:

French: - "La Physiologie des Tabous" - Edição "Genus" - Rome - 1939

"La Géographie de la Faim" - 1950

Spanish: - "La Fisiología de los Tabous" - Buenos Aires - 1940.

"La Geografía del Hambre - 1950

English: - "Basal Metabolism in Tropical Climates" - 1938

"Geography of Hunger" - 1951

Italian: - "Alimentazione ed Acclimatazione Umana nei Tropici" Milano 1939

Spanish: - "La Alimentación en los Tropicos" - Mexico - 1946

N.B. - The works published in various papers and magazines, from Brazil and other countries, are not included in this list.

Other biographical data in "Who's who in Latin America" - edition of 1940 and in "Biographical Encyclopedia of world", Institute of Research in Biography - 1946.

FAO ARCHIVES

STATEMENT BY JOSUE DE CASTRO  
CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF FAO

*Vol. 10 9.VI.52*

Gentlemen,

You have certainly seen the agenda for this Session of the Council which opens today. Of course, this Session is only a stage in the development of FAO's work and will not have a spectacular character. But it is a session of work where delegates of 13 countries will tackle certain aspects of a problem whose importance is still seriously under-estimated: the problem of the increase of agricultural production throughout the world.

You have already been told to what extent the world food and agriculture situation remains a matter of grave concern. Last year, the total production of the principal food products throughout the world, except for the USSR, had increased only 9% over the pre-war level, while the population had grown by 13%. These figures were published by our last Conference, which also noted that future prospects, as indicated by the agricultural plans of various countries, did not appear to promise any significant increase in per caput agricultural production. And even before the war, it was estimated that two thirds of the world's population suffered from chronic undernourishment.

In the last analysis, then, it is the problem of hunger with which we must deal. It is already serious and will become acute if the present trend continues. FAO seeks to put into effect, by all means at its disposal, an increase in agricultural production which can be reasonably expected. But it is still necessary that the governments concerned do their bit. We know that the world could produce much more than it actually does. It is still necessary that each country, where necessary, take the required technical, social and economic measures.

First of all, technical measures: there are vast regions of the world where the yields are deplorably low because of outdated methods of farming. With better seeds, an improved use of soil, water and fertilizer, modernized equipment, better veterinary hygiene, production could easily be doubled or tripled, at least in certain areas. May I mention, as an example, that Italy increased its production of maize more than 100,000 tons a year just by the introduction of hybrid maize seed, and without any other technical improvement being necessary.

But the introduction of these technical improvements cannot be planned unless the farmer can expect some benefit from it - and here we reach the social problem. How can anyone expect the farmer to produce more if he is not given the means to do so? A person who works a portion of land of which he is not the owner, who has neither money nor adequate tools, who never receives enlightened advice, and who knows, above all else, that he will be allowed to keep only enough of his harvest so that he will not die of hunger - how can this person be expected to be able, or even to want, to increase his ridiculously small yields?

And from this we move on to the economic aspect of the problem. FAO works to stimulate governments to take measures for agricultural reforms - reforms without which no progress can be expected in a number of countries. But what good is it to give to the worker the ownership of the land, or at least to remove from him the pressure of the actual owner, if this worker is not given the means, which he otherwise lacks, to permit him to work efficiently? To buy seed, fertilizer, material, cattle, the worker of the land needs, at least for the first years, a great deal of money - and for this he needs agricultural credit, supplemented by a service of technical advice. But in addition, he must pay the installments on his loans, and this he can do only if the State guarantees him the sale of his products at a sufficient price. Accordingly, agrarian reform, agricultural credit, technical assistance and price guarantees are the indispensable bases of all

The attention of governments has been directed many times to these needs. FAO is at their service to help them carry out the necessary work. It is obvious that FAO cannot substitute for them, but it has the resources needed to help governments develop their overall plans and carry them out. FAO can mobilize, for the good of all mankind, the vast array of the world's know-how in technical, social and economic fields and it can undertake studies which will lead to the solution of problems inherent in certain particular conditions. Such is, in fact, the type of activity which FAO has already undertaken with such a degree of success.

In the course of the coming week, the Council will examine actions taken by the Director-General to carry out the resolutions of the last Session of the Conference and he will inform us of the development of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. We will discuss the problem of agrarian structure, and also the action undertaken by FAO to coordinate the fight against the plague of locusts which is currently menacing the entire agricultural production in the Near East. We shall also examine the Director-General's proposals for an international food reserve which can be placed at the disposal of countries menaced by famine. The Council obviously cannot reach definitive decisions since it cannot make such a commitment on behalf of the 68 member nations of FAO. At all events, we hope to prepare adequate solutions and to present them to the governments of our member nations.

Such is, gentlemen, very briefly outlined, the ensemble of the problem of which we shall study certain aspects. I scarcely need tell you of my deep personal interest in these questions. I who have been so concerned with this grave problem of hunger, the importance of which has only recently been recognized. But I can assure you that all the Members of the Council are as aware as I am of the serious responsibilities which we have

DISCOURS D'OUVERTURE DE M. DE CASTRO A LA QUINZIEME  
SESSION DU CONSEIL

Je déclare ouverte la Quinzième Session du Conseil.

Permettez-moi, Messieurs, de vous dire toute la satisfaction que j'éprouve à me retrouver avec vous dans cette salle. Mon expérience, en tant que Président de cette éminente assemblée, est encore bien limitée, et j'aurai certes à compter sur votre indulgence, mais du moins tiens-je à vous assurer de toute ma bonne volonté. Nous sommes tous très attachés à cette remarquable Institution qu'est la FAO, et c'est là le plus sûr garant que nous ferons ensemble une bonne besogne.

Vous aurez noté sans doute l'absence de notre collègue et ami, le Professeur Mayer. J'ai le plaisir de vous annoncer que son arrivée a simplement été retardée par d'autres obligations. Il sera parmi nous jeudi prochain. Nous avons également la bonne fortune d'avoir dans cette salle le Dr. Barton et Sir Ralph Enfield. L'un et l'autre nous avaient donné à craindre qu'à la suite de leur retraite de leurs fonctions officielles, ils ne représenteraient plus leurs pays à nos réunions. Je tiens à leur dire combien le Conseil et moi-même sommes sincèrement heureux de les voir ici et de pouvoir compter encore sur leur expérience et leur jugement.

Messieurs, il ne s'est écoulé que six mois depuis la fin de la Conférence, et s'est une période bien courte dans la vie d'une organisation internationale. Vous avez, toutefois, estimé vous-mêmes le 7 décembre dernier, qu'il serait trop long de laisser s'écouler une année entière sans session du Conseil. Le projet d'ordre du jour et les documents préparés par le Directeur Général nous montrent certainement que nous allons avoir ample matière à délibérer.

Il importe toutefois de bien marquer le caractère de cette Session. Sur la plupart des questions groupées sous le titre 4 de l'ordre du jour, le Directeur Général n'a pu encore que mettre en oeuvre les résolutions de la dernière Conférence et nous ne pouvons donc nous attendre à avoir déjà sous les yeux des résultats concrets. Il sera, néanmoins, utile que nous examinions les dispositions prises par le Directeur Général. L'une de ces questions revêt d'ailleurs à mes yeux une importance primordiale. C'est celle des structures agricoles. Mais c'est aussi, sans doute, l'une des plus difficiles que notre Organisation ait à traiter. Je vous demanderai donc d'examiner avec une attention toute particulière les indications très précises que le Directeur Général nous a données, dans le Document CL 15/5, sur son programme d'action.

Nous devons aussi ne point perdre de vue l'inter-dépendance des questions que nous étudions. Toute notre oeuvre doit concourir, en dernière analyse, à augmenter la production agricole, de façon à accroître le volume des disponibilités alimentaires et relever les niveaux de vie. Or ce but ne peut être atteint que par une action conjuguée dans tous les secteurs de l'économie et de la technique agricole.



Il serait vain de fournir la terre au paysan s'il n'était assuré d'avoir en même temps les moyens de la cultiver et de vendre ses produits à des prix suffisants. C'est pourquoi la Conférence a si fortement souligné, l'année dernière, la nécessité de programmes nationaux de développement. Le Directeur Général nous entretiendra bientôt de ses vues personnelles sur la façon dont cette question a évolué depuis décembre dernier. Il vient de faire un voyage plein d'enseignements à cet égard, dont le récit sera une excellente introduction à nos délibérations de cette semaine. Il nous apporte les bases nécessaires à un examen d'ensemble de la situation et j'espère que nous saurons, dans un esprit de large synthèse, tirer les conclusions qui s'imposent et les présenter dans notre rapport.

Dans un domaine connexe, celui de la famine qui figure au titre 6 de notre ordre du jour, je voudrais marquer ici ma satisfaction des études préliminaires que le Directeur Général nous présente. J'espère fermement que notre Organisation pourra aboutir dans des délais appropriés à mettre sur pied un système international de collaboration pour empêcher l'écllosion de crises brutales de pénuries alimentaires. La question, à mes yeux, est non seulement importante mais urgente. Il faudra toutefois éviter toute hâte intempestive dans l'établissement de mes recommandations, de façon à ne pas commettre des erreurs dont les conséquences seraient fatales pour le succès de notre oeuvre. Nous devons donc, selon la célèbre parole latine, "nous dépêcher lentement", ce qui est peut-être la plus grande difficulté de notre tâche.

Mais nous y réussissons si nous nous souvenons que le Conseil tient son mandat de la Conférence et qu'il a pour fonction d'agir au nom de 68 pays. Je prie mes collègues d'avoir ce fait constamment à l'esprit et de ne pas considérer simplement qu'ils représentent ici le pays qui les a accrédités. Conjointement et solidairement, les dix-huit délégués présents ici représentent l'ensemble de la FAO, et il importe qu'ils sachent interpréter leurs instructions nationales en fonction de cette responsabilité. Nous n'aurons pas d'ailleurs à prendre de décisions définitives sauf sur des points d'importance secondaire. Notre responsabilité consiste à élaborer des recommandations d'ensemble mais il est primordial que celles-ci soient inspirées de l'intérêt général. Si votre Président ne représente ici aucun pays, il est non moins essentiel que le Conseil tout entier en représente vraiment soixante-huit.

Il y a à l'heure actuelle deux problèmes fondamentaux qui confrontent l'humanité. L'un de ces problèmes est la guerre, et la peur de la guerre; l'autre est celui de la faim, et la peur de la faim. Et, comme l'a très bien dit l'honorable Arthur Henderson au dernier Congrès pour l'Organisation du Gouvernement Mondial, on ne peut pas résoudre l'un de ces problèmes sans que l'autre aussi soit résolu. Ceci suffit à démontrer l'énorme responsabilité qui incombe à la FAO, et à nous tous, Membres de ce Conseil.

Messieurs, j'en ai assez dit; je propose que nous nous attachions tout de suite à l'examen de notre ordre du jour et je vous remercie d'avance de votre bienveillance à mon égard.