

MESSAGE FROM THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

The Council of FAO sends to the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment the following message which it requests the Executive Secretary to read to the Conference:

"The first session of the Council of FAO sends a message of greeting to the International Conference on Trade and Employment. In the opinion of this Council, the matters on the Agenda of the Havana Conference are of the utmost importance to the nations of the world, and the Council expresses its confident hope for the satisfactory outcome of the Conference.

"Moreover, much of the subject matter is of direct importance to the work of FAO. Improvement in agricultural production and nutrition depends to no small extent on the progress made in promoting a freer flow of international trade, and the Council attaches importance to this aspect of ITO's functions.

"As regards trade in agricultural products FAO is pledged to the twin objectives of expansion and price stability, and the Council would recall the words of the Geneva Session of the FAO Conference, '... that for a certain number of important commodities, commodity agreements are the best means of assuring steady markets and price stability at a fair level and thereby of encouraging primary producers to plan with confidence'. This Council takes particular interest in the Chapter in the Draft Charter concerning inter-governmental commodity agreements, a field in which this Council itself has certain functions under its Constitution. This Council believes that Member Governments will find it useful to work both through ITO and through FAO in their respective fields.

"The Council notes with special interest the chapters of the Draft Charter concerning employment and development. The FAO Conference has clearly stated that in many important areas of the world, agricultural progress depends on parallel industrial development. The Council recognizes that the ITO, when established, will play an important part in assisting Member Nations in programmes of development and looks forward to close collaboration in these matters between the two organizations.

/Both

"Both agricultural and industrial development can prosper only in an expanding world economy toward which the International Trade Organization along with other international agencies can contribute much.

"May therefore the International Trade Organization of the United Nations be speedily established."