INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

Resolution of June 1967

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the IFAP (International Federation of Agricultural Producers) a resolution was passed concerning the Kennedy Round and its implications for agriculture. The text of this resolution a great part of which is relevant in connexion with item 3(b) of the provisional agenda (L/2854/Rev.1), is herewith circulated to contracting parties for their information.

KENNEDY ROUND - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

1. During the past twenty years national farmers' organizations have constantly urged governments to negotiate effective international commodity arrangements. They consider, in the light of their experience of the operation of national and international markets, that such arrangements are essential if a greater degree of stability is to be maintained in world economies and if the continuing adjustments in production, trade, stocks, and prices required to adapt food supplies to changing world requirements are to be implemented, taking into account the interests of consumers as well as producers.

2. As they have delved deeper into the implications of this overall policy, national farmers' organizations have reached the unanimous conclusion that to be fully effective such international commodity agreements for agricultural products must embody commitments covering important aspects of national policies, including "a degree of commitment which would be effective in influencing agricultural production policies of those countries who are parties to the agreement".1

3. The Executive Committee of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, meeting in Montreal on 5-7 June 1967, recognizes and welcomes the important steps taken in Geneva to facilitate international trade - including the

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1Report of IFAP's Thirteenth General Conference, held in Dublin, Ireland, paragraph 37.
essential one of paving the way for an international wheat agreement with important new provisions. It also believes and hopes that the Geneva accord will tend to exert a beneficial influence upon farm costs through freer and wider industrial competition. The Committee regrets, however, that the Kennedy Round failed to evolve a new and constructive pattern of international negotiations on agriculture although it again demonstrated glaringly the limited manner in which the general rules embodied in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade apply to agriculture. There has, in short, been no comprehensive attempt at international co-ordination of national policies of agricultural support and trade through international commodity councils and agreements.

4. In these circumstances the Executive Committee of IFAP invites all member organizations to pursue actively the policy embodied in the reports of its General Conferences and bring pressure to bear on governments in order to carry forward, through existing international agencies as well as ad hoc conferences and international commodity councils, efforts at a minimum amount of understanding which should cover the following points:

- an international cereals agreement including, inter alia, reference to the levels of production required to achieve market balance and price stability and to the levels of normal carry-over positions, global and related to individual countries;

- the setting up of an International Dairy Council in which producers and governments could co-operate;

- periodic consultations on the situation and outlook in world meat trade leading to the co-ordinated action required to ensure the orderly development of the world meat industry;

- support to consultations and negotiations on other commodities, especially those of interest to the developing countries now mostly carried forward in the United Nations and other intergovernmental framework, in accordance with the implications of IFAP general policy positions.

5. Although they still fall far short of the minimum foreseeable short-term requirements of under-nourished countries, IFAP welcomes the steps taken in GATT to make a beginning with multilateral sharing of the burdens of food aid programmes - a real breakthrough for a principle long advocated by IFAP conferences. The Committee in this respect also wishes to draw the attention of governments and public opinion to the necessity - amply demonstrated by the experience gained in the food aid field over fifteen years and formally recognized in all

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international procedures that evolved during that period - of supplementing food aid in kind by additional aid in the form of services or money to cover transportation and distribution costs.

6. It is not yet known how the food aid clause to be incorporated in a new wheat agreement will be administered. Obviously, effective multilateral administration or multilateral co-ordination of the actions to be undertaken by each donor country or group of countries will be necessary for optimum effect of all food aid programmes. In expressing its expectation that fullest use will be made of the facilities and experience existing in the UN/FAO World Food Programme, the Committee also wishes to record its hope that the resources of the new wheat aid clause will be in addition to the resources of the World Food Programme.