

REVISED SUMMARY RECORD
OF THE
EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

Rome, 18-22 February 1952

I. List of Delegates and Observers Attending Eighteenth MeetingII. Summary Record

1. Meeting opened by Acting Director-General
2. Adoption of Draft Agenda
3. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
4. Report of Sixth Session of the FAO Conference
5. Food and Famine
6. Review of World Agricultural Commodity Situation
 - 6.1 Coarse Grains and Livestock Products
 - 6.2 Fats and Oils
 - 6.3 Rice
 - 6.4 Other Agricultural Products
7. Review of World Fertilizer Situation
8. Netherlands Memorandum on the Stimulation of the Consumption of Milk and Dairy Products
9. Trade in Fruit and Vegetables
10. Intergovernmental Policies and Arrangements for Agricultural Products
11. Commodity Stabilization Techniques
12. Summary Record
13. Release of Information to the Press
14. Time and Place of Next Two Meetings
15. Provisional Agenda for Nineteenth Meeting
16. Translation

I. LIST OF DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS ATTENDING THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING

<u>Country</u>	<u>Delegates</u>
ARGENTINA:	JUAN BAUTISTA MARTESE Counsellor of the Embassy Argentine Embassy
AUSTRALIA:	ALBERT LEOPOLD SINGER Commercial Counsellor Australian Legation
BURMA:	U SAN KHIN, Executive Officer, State Agricultural Marketing Board Rangoon
CANADA:	S.C. HUDSON, Principal Economist, Economics Division, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa
CUBA:	LUIS MARINO PEREZ, Delegate from Cuba to the International Sugar Council, London
EGYPT:	MOHAMED SHEDID, Commercial Attaché, Egyptian Embassy
FRANCE:	C.H. JANTON, Controleur d'Etat Ministère des Affaires Economiques Paris
GERMANY:	WILHELM WEBER, Ministerial Counsellor, Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Forestry, Bonn
NETHERLANDS:	S.L. LOUWES, Director General of Food, The Hague
	(Alternate) C.C.L. EYGENRAAM, Agricultural Attaché, Netherlands Legation
PAKISTAN:	ASLAM MALIK, Secretary, Pakistan Legation
SWEDEN:	" K.F. SVARDSTROM, Professor, Royal Agricultural University, Ultuna, Uppsala 7
	(Alternate) C. BERGENSTRAHLE, Counsellor, Swedish Legation



<u>Country</u>	<u>Delegates</u>
UNITED KINGDOM:	J.E. WALL, Under Secretary, Ministry of Food, London
(Alternate)	H.J. GRAY, Assistant Secretary, Board of Trade, London
(Alternate)	S.P. DOBBS, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Food, London
UNITED STATES:	H.R. COTTAM, Counsellor, American Embassy
(Alternate)	R.C. TETRO, Agricultural Attaché, American Embassy
YUGOSLAVIA:	S. KRASOVEC, Director, Federal Statistical Office, Belgrade

<u>Country or Organization</u>	<u>Observers</u>
AUSTRIA:	R. KRIPPL-REDLICH, Secretary, Austrian Legation
BELGIUM:	G.L. STUYCK, Attaché, Belgian Embassy
CEYLON:	R.S.S. GUNewardene, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary for Ceylon
COLOMBIA:	BELISARIO AREINIEGAS GARCIA, Counsellor, Colombian Embassy
COSTA RICA	JULIO C. PASCAL, Civil Attaché, Costa Rica Legation
ECUADOR:	JUAN LARREA, Rome
EL SALVADOR:	A.S. CANESSA, Ambassador, Extraordinary Plenipotentiary
	ROD B. SHONENBERG, Secretary, El Salvador Legation
HAITI:	EMMANUEL BERNARDIN, Secretary, Haitian Legation
INDIA:	S.S. BAJPAI, Counsellor, India Embassy

Country or
Organization

Observers

ITALY:

V. DE ASARTA, Member,
National FAO Committee

ANTONIO FERONE, Member,
National FAO Committee

JAPAN:

TAKAJIRO INOUE, Overseas
Representative of the Japanese
Government, Rome

PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC:

MACARIO O. REBODOS, Admin-
istrative and Finance Officer,
Philippine Legation

SPAIN:

ELADIO MORALES y FRAILE, Ing. Agr.
Agregado Agrónomo
Spanish Embassy

SWITZERLAND:

ANDRE PARODI, Counsellor,
Swiss Legation

ECMFE:

NORMAN L. GOLD, Chief, Trade
and Finance Division, Economic
Commission for Asia and the
Far East

IFIP:

Miss ROSEMARY MILLER,
Commodity Officer, International
Federation of Agricultural
Producers, London

CEEC:

B. DESCHARS, Principal Admin-
istrator, Organization for
European Economic Cooperation,
Paris

II. SUMMARY RECORD OF EIGHTEENTH MEETING

1. Meeting Opened by Acting Director-General

The Meeting was opened by Sir Herbert Broadley who transmitted a message from Mr. Dodd wishing the Committee all success in its work. Sir Herbert described the work of the Committee as entering upon a new era of both widened and intensified activities. He referred particularly to the challenge posed by the Sixth Session of the Conference in its recognition of the urgent need for increased food production and of the concomitant necessity to ensure stable markets without which the required expansion of output could not be achieved. The Committee had an important task to perform in promoting these objectives, and every effort would be made by the Secretariat to service the Committee as fully as possible in the discharge of its functions.

2. Adoption of Draft Agenda

The Committee adopted the Draft Agenda which had been circulated in document CCP52/2, and included an additional item "Review of the World Fertilizer Situation".

3. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Mr. John Wall, Delegate for the United Kingdom, was elected Chairman and Mr. S. Krasovec, Delegate for Yugoslavia, was elected Vice-Chairman.

4. Report of Sixth Session of the FAO Conference

The Chairman summarized briefly the main conclusions and recommendations relating to International Commodity Problems in the Report of the Sixth Session of the FAO Conference.

In a general discussion which followed, special attention was devoted by the Committee to the interpretation of its functions and responsibilities. The subject was introduced by the Delegate for France who on behalf of his Government presented a statement on the methods of implementing the work entrusted to the Committee by the Conference. The text of the statement was circulated verbatim in CCP52/14rev.

In discussing the statement by the French Delegation, Members of the Committee generally were in agreement with the approach presented in it and they expressed their appreciation of the initiative taken by the Delegate for France in facilitating the discussion of this important subject. It was agreed that the Committee's discussion of the statement was not intended to arrive at a formally agreed position which would have required more time-consuming study and deliberation than could be devoted to it at that stage. At the same time, the Committee agreed that it had to see its main function in supplying the Council with the information and advice required for making recommendations to Governments. It was clear that the Committee could not discharge its functions by reviewing trade problems in isolation but that it also had to concern itself with the closely related problems of production and consumption. It was recognized that problems of coordination with the work of other agencies

were not always easy to solve but that dangers of serious overlapping could be largely avoided by the Members themselves who generally were in a position to keep themselves informed of and to advise on their respective Governments' activities in related fields. It was noted that the Committee's terms of reference covered a very wide range of problems and that great care had to be taken to concentrate on the most important issues and to avoid a dissipation of effort, while at the same time keeping in mind the broader implications of the Committee's work. The main lines of the Committee's work had been laid down by the Conference, and the workload involved was a heavy one which could be expected to keep the Committee fully occupied during the coming year. Most of the points listed on the Agenda for the Eighteenth Meeting had, in fact, to be regarded as constituting the major part of the Agenda for the coming Meetings as well. It was noted that the study of national price policies and marketing arrangements for agricultural products had to be regarded as part of the Committee's consulting functions and that information on these measures from various viewpoints was required as basis for the Committee's deliberations in the international sphere. At the same time, it was pointed out by a number of Delegates that in the field of national price and marketing policies it was particularly important to guard against attempting to cover too wide a field which might easily lead to getting lost in a mass of detail. It was noted that the Secretariat's work program, as outlined in CCP51/16, was well suited to assisting the Committee in its task. Mr. Boerma, Director of the Economics Division, explained to the Committee that the Economics Division's plan of work in the field of national price and marketing policies was conceived as a continuing two-year program. It was not the kind of research which lent itself to the speedy formulation of final results but he would keep the Committee informed of the progress made and intended to present to the next Meeting an interim report summarizing some of the work which was now under way. It was pointed out that Members of the Committee could assist the work of the Secretariat by making available pertinent information contained in official records and in the archives of national research agencies. It was also recommended that the Members themselves should endeavour to contribute papers setting out their respective Governments' policies, since the many intricate aspects of these policies could often best be described and explained by those who were closely concerned with administering them in their daily work and in some cases also had had a hand in shaping them. It was also suggested that cooperation might take the form of making available to the Secretariat on a loan basis the services of national government officials who could work at the Rome headquarters for certain periods.

The question was raised whether Delegates should regard themselves primarily as representatives of their respective Governments or rather as experts in the field of agricultural commodity problems. It was generally felt that the Conference, in requesting Governments to arrange for suitably qualified representatives, had meant to imply that Delegates, in addition to being well versed themselves on the subjects under discussion, should also be fully acquainted with their respective governments' broad views and attitudes on these matters.

5. Food and Famine

The Committee noted that the Sixth Session of the FAO Conference, in Resolution No. 15, had asked the Council to study and explore suitable ways and means whereby an emergency food reserve could be established and made available promptly to Member States threatened or affected by serious food shortages or famine. The Secretary informed the Committee that a paper on this subject was being prepared for the consideration by the Council at its next Session on June 9th. It was agreed that the paper now being prepared for the Council should also be circulated to Members of the CCP, and that the CCP should discuss the

paper at its Nineteenth Meeting and transmit its comments, if any, to the Fifteenth Session of the Council which was scheduled to take place immediately following the CCP Meeting. The Committee also took note of the Resolution on Food and Famine which had been passed by the United Nations General Assembly in February, the text of which had been reproduced in CCP 52/16.

6. Review of World Agricultural Commodity Situation

In accordance with the Conference Report, the Committee devoted special attention to a review of the situation and outlook for coarse grains, livestock products, fats and oils and rice. The situation for other major agricultural products was also reviewed in brief. The main points and conclusions reached by the Committee in its review of the world agricultural commodity situation were as follows:

6.1 Coarse Grains and Livestock Products

The Committee's review of the outlook for coarse grains, meat and other livestock products was based on the following papers "Some Aspects of Trends in World Food Trade" (CCP 52/6); "Coarse Grains" (CCP 52/8); and "Livestock Products" (CCP 52/9).

After an introduction of document CCP 52/6 by a member of the Secretariat, the Chairman opened the discussion by inviting the Delegates for Argentina and Australia to comment on this study which was largely concerned with the development of exportable food supplies from their respective countries.

The Delegate for Argentina referred to the lack of time available to read all the documentation and to the fact that the Spanish version of CCP 52/6 had been made available to him only after the Meeting had begun. In his opinion, the paper, while giving a complete panoramic view, was unduly influenced by temporary factors and the outlook that was forecast was too pessimistic. To illustrate this, he referred in some detail to the development of agriculture in Argentina since the 1930's, and emphasized that prices received by his country for its exports since the end of the war had failed to increase as fast as the prices of its imports. He assured the Committee that his Government was fully conscious of the need for a larger volume of agricultural exports and referred to the recent steps that were being taken - higher prices to farmers and special concessions to facilitate imports of agricultural machinery - to encourage agricultural output, and other steps to reduce domestic meat consumption and release larger quantities for export.

The Delegate for Australia explained that time had not allowed his government to study the document sufficiently to give, at this stage, a comprehensive statement. He was glad to be able to inform the Committee, however, that the Australian Government would transmit to the Secretariat its official comment which could be used for issuing a revised version of CCP 52/6. Meanwhile, the Delegate for Australia pointed out that in his view the conclusion of the paper tended to over-emphasize some of the short-term problems whereas his Government felt that FAO studies could be more concerned about the long-term aspects of the general agricultural situation. He wondered, for instance, whether rising consumption in Australia because of population growth was different from the trends in other parts of the world. A better perspective would, he thought, have been obtained by emphasizing the Australian situation in relation to world trends. He stressed that Australia was well aware of the seriousness for its balance of payments of a decline in wool prices. He referred in some detail to certain sections of the paper which, he felt, needed amending in the light of more recent information. In regard to the final paragraph of page

Mr. K. said that the Australian Government wished to indicate that the reference in the Defence Pact was not based on accurate information and suggested that, in future, such statements should be supported by a quoted authority.

The Delegate for Canada informed the Committee that his country envisaged a 33 percent increase of food grains supplies, resulting from a 25 percent increase in the coarse grains crop and also a large wheat crop. Exports of feed grains were limited to some extent, however, by transportation difficulties. In marketings of livestock products, a 15 percent increase was expected for hogs. The domestic market was expected to consume a larger proportion of dairy products but export outlets would be needed for cheddar cheese and concentrated milk products. The Canadian Government was concerned about the import controls imposed by Sec.104 of the United States Defence Production Act.

Mr. Tetro (United States), after suggesting a number of amendments to COP 52/6, also stressed the importance of a full discussion on prices, especially as incentives to output. In reviewing the prospect for coarse grains supplies, he pointed out that the danger of the effects of drought in his country had been lessened to some extent by progress made in mechanization, conservation practices and the breeding of drought-resistant blends. Also, it should be remembered that there was a less gloomy aspect in the picture, namely that some of the supply difficulties did, in fact, result from the improvement in living standards, as evidenced by shifts of consumption to more expensive products. There were many different views on the supply outlook, ranging from the Malthusian school at the one end to some highly optimistic assumptions at the other. It had been calculated by some that, at best, the United States might eventually raise its agricultural output to a level sufficient for supporting 250-275 million people. While this view might be somewhat extreme, prospects of production developments in both importing and exporting countries should be taken fully into account in a discussion of future trends.

Delegates of countries importing coarse grains generally expressed concern about the present inadequacy of exportable supplies and the uncertainty of an improvement in the situation. They were particularly concerned about an increased dependence on supplies from dollar areas. The more optimistic statement presented by the Delegate for Argentina and the comments made by other exporters were received with much interest, and it was also recognized that the limiting effects on exportable supplies of agricultural conditions and policies and of increasing domestic consumption in some exporting countries could not be assessed with any accuracy. Yet, while national viewpoints were bound to show some differences of opinion, also among the importing countries themselves, representatives of importing countries generally took the view that the outlook was highly uncertain, and that this very uncertainty made it necessary for their Governments to plan for a greater degree of self-sufficiency in food supplies, and for the better use of grassland. These policies were now in a period of transition, and it was extremely important for Governments to obtain as accurate information as possible on future trends, and to take this information into account in planning their national programs. The documentation prepared by the Secretariat and the information provided by Members at the Eighteenth Meeting were regarded as steps in the right direction but it was generally felt that more information was required and that Governments should be requested to prepare memoranda giving their views of the situation and to assist the Secretariat in preparing a revised and expanded report. It was agreed that the situation should be reviewed again at the next COP Meeting and that further consideration should then also be given to the possibility of setting up a Working Party for Coarse Grains. While the discussion of the Meeting was more specifically concerned with coarse grains, it was understood that a good deal of the comment made also affected the outlook for the supply of meat, and, to a lesser degree, for other livestock products. Emphasis was also placed on the supply of fertilizers as a key factor in the situation.

The OEEC Observer said that a recent OREC study of live-stock production forecasts a somewhat higher rate of increase in pigmeat and eggs than in milk. The shift from milk production to other products and the decline in milk consumption had been studied. Two major points had been emphasized: methods of stimulating higher consumption by adequate investment and better organisation of supply and distribution; and the pooling of information of governmental action aimed at higher consumption.

6.2 Fats and Oils

The Secretariat's paper on problems in fats and oils (CCP 52/10) was presented for discussion. No changes were suggested in the text of the paper. Numerous suggestions were made, however, as to desirable directions for further analysis in this field to be made by the Secretariat for presentation at the next meeting of the Committee. It was proposed that more information should be given on consumption and uses of fats and oils in the several countries, on the interchangeability and the price relationships of fats and oils, and on the interactions of demand, supply, and prices. It was also suggested that the Secretariat should report on national programs for oilcrops, on acreages of these crops and prospective export surpluses. Some of the Delegates proposed that the Secretariat request Governments to furnish data that would help to assemble some of this information more quickly.

The Committee did not think that the fats and oils situation called for any international action to be considered at this time, since world supplies were appreciably easier in relation to demand than for certain other commodities, and seemed likely to increase. There was a general consensus that more information, along the lines described above, was necessary before the Committee could decide whether it would be desirable to form a working party of experts to consider world problems in fats and oils.

6.3 Rice

The Committee considered the action it should take to give effect to Resolution No.14 of the Sixth Session of the Conference instructing it to undertake a study of the supplies, distribution and prices of rice with a view to making appropriate recommendations. The Committee had before it a survey of the problem, prepared by Professor G.C. Allen (CCP 52/7). Mr. Boerma, Director of the Economics Division, reported on discussions he had had with officials of the Far Eastern Governments just prior to the Meeting and confirmed the serious situation confronting both exporting and importing countries. The exporting countries, for which rice exports were the principal source of foreign exchange earnings, had limited quantities for export, and were faced with rising prices of the goods they needed to import. The importing countries, on the other hand, faced grave difficulties in obtaining imports owing to the reduced exportable supplies, high prices, and foreign exchange scarcities.

Mr. Boerma pointed out that, although the International Rice Commission was meeting in May, its terms of reference excluded it from considering trade problems, and he emphasized the need for a thorough examination of the basic issues. He suggested that the Committee should recommend the convening of a special meeting of exporters and importers to work out agreed trade policies and other appropriate measures.

The Delegate for Burma stated that his Government were doing their utmost to increase production by the provision of loans to farmers and other measures but that, owing to reduced stocks, the utmost care had to be taken in allocating supplies. He referred to the 5-year Plan which his Government were developing but said that disturbances might check its implementation. The Observer for Ceylon stressed the importance of rice imports to his country,

domestic production providing only one-third of its requirements, and supported the proposal for a special meeting.

Some other Delegates indicated their interest in such a meeting but it was recognized that, as contracts for 1952 exports had already been made, the meeting would necessarily be concerned with longer-term problems. The United States Delegation said that they viewed the problem with great sympathy and thought that the terms of any recommendations to be made by the Committee should be sufficiently wide to allow such a meeting if countries wanted one.

While there was general recognition of the gravity of the situation, some Delegates were not in a position to state whether their Governments would wish to attend such a meeting. It was agreed, however, because of the urgency of the rice problem, that the Director-General should propose the holding of such a meeting and invite interested Member Governments to indicate whether they would be willing to attend. The Chairman pointed out that any meeting of this kind could only be asked to study the situation and make recommendations. It was also agreed that the comments made by Member Governments in their replies to the Director-General should be circulated.

Other Agricultural Products

The Committee reviewed in brief the information presented in CCP 52/11 on the following commodities:

Wheat - Sugar - Coffee - Tobacco - Dried fruit - Cotton -
Wool - Jute - Rubber.

It was agreed that the information presented by the Secretariat verbally and in CCP 52/11, though requiring some minor modifications, was very useful for the work of the Committee, and that documents of a similar character should be prepared regularly for CCP Meetings. The coverage by commodities could be varied and it was suggested that in the next paper a review of the cocoa situation should be included. In general, it was agreed that the reviews should highlight points requiring special attention by Governments but that due regard also had to be given to presenting a well rounded picture of the overall situation.

In reviewing the wheat situation, reference was made to the forthcoming Meeting of the International Wheat Council which had to consider the re-negotiation of an International Wheat Agreement. It was pointed out that the terms of reference of the Wheat Council did not include the preparation of full-scale economic studies as one of its functions and that the FAO Secretariat had an important responsibility in investigating these matters. Mr. Boerma informed the Committee that a study of some aspects of the Wheat Agreement was in process and that the conclusions reached so far would be taken into account in the FAO Observer's brief to the forthcoming meeting of the Wheat Council. He also was considering the possibility of presenting a paper to the Wheat Meeting, setting out the results of the Secretariat's work on certain relevant points.

Some comments on intergovernmental consultations now in progress for sugar were made in connection with the Committee's review of policies and arrangements of other intergovernmental bodies dealing with agricultural products (see 10 below).

7. Review of World Fertilizer Situation

A brief review of the supply situation for fertilizers and pesticides was presented to the Committee by members of the Secretariat.

Apart from the shortage of sulphur, it was stated that the fertilizer supply situation was not alarming, production being sufficient to meet demand. Distribution problems were more serious, however, international movement being impeded in some instances by trade barriers. Consumption was also being held back by high prices, though it was still generally true that the increased yields resulting from the more intensive application of fertilizers warranted the investment at current prices, provided that correctly chosen plant nutrients were applied to the given soils and crops. Much research was presently being done on new methods of phosphate fertilizer manufacture using processes not requiring sulphur. Some favorable results of these researches might be expected soon. The attention of the Committee was drawn to FAO's last Fertilizer Report, published in August, 1951. It was explained that the question of frequency of publication of this report had been under consideration but that it had been decided to continue issuing it on an annual basis, mainly because major changes in the situation generally were not rapid, as production could be increased only in connection with two- or three-year plans and other basic measures.

Members of the Committee made several suggestions for additional information to be provided by the Secretariat. In particular, it was suggested that, since the fertilizer industry did not usually face fluctuations in production but rather depended on the more or less constant output of its factories, it might be possible and useful to forecast the amounts available in the two years following the year of the Annual Review. The Secretariat agreed to consider the proposal and to take a decision after re-examining the possibility of devoting resources to this additional assignment.

It was also proposed that the Committee should regard it as its concern to recommend that the Council draw to the attention of Member Governments the harmful influences of trade barriers on the use of fertilizers, and the resulting impediments to FAO's aim of increasing agricultural production. It was suggested that Members should bring to the next CCP Meeting information concerning any trade barriers on fertilizers which had been imposed by their Governments.

The Committee agreed that it should be regarded as one of its regular functions to make periodic reviews of the world fertilizer situation.

With regard to pesticides, it was reported that the ECOSOC Working Party on Pesticides, at its meeting in Geneva earlier in the month, had concluded that the situation on the basis of chlorinated hydro-carbons generally was one of sufficient supply, though handicapped occasionally by poor estimating of future needs which resulted in temporary shortages. It was important to note in this connection that organic pesticides tended to deteriorate when stored over long periods. No shortages were foreseen in fungicides and herbicides, with the exception perhaps of copper sulphate, one of the most widely used fungicides, and of certain sulphur derivatives. However, in both cases, the proportion of the element used in the manufacture of fungicides as compared with other uses was so small that it should be possible to cover the demand.

8. Netherlands Memorandum on the Stimulation of the Consumption of Milk and Dairy Products.

The Committee gave further consideration to this Memorandum (CCP 51/28, Appendix II) which had first been submitted to it at its Seventeenth Meeting and, after referral to the Council and Conference, again remitted to the Committee. The Netherlands Delegate, in re-introducing the memorandum, explained that, while the milk situation, which had previously displayed some surplus characteristics, had changed since the Memorandum was prepared and while butter production might now be more stable on a lower level, the difficulties might re-

emerge. The Netherlands Delegate also referred to the FAO world food proposals of 1946, which set the general increase of milk consumption as one of the Organization's principal aims, and suggested that the creation of a working party would give countries an opportunity of benefiting from each other's experience in the promotion of greater milk consumption.

It was agreed after discussion that the Committee should await the outcome of the work on milk and dairy products that was being undertaken in O.E.E.C. and, in the light of this, reconsider at a later meeting the merits of the proposal for a working party.

9. Trade in Fruit and Vegetables

The Committee was informed by the Secretariat that plans were under way for the study on fruit and vegetables which the Secretariat had been instructed to undertake for the information of the Committee. Replies to Questionnaires were now coming in, and the Secretariat hoped to complete its report on these data in time for the next Meeting of the CCP.

Mr. Louwes (Netherlands) pointed out that several other international agencies also were engaged in work on fruit and vegetables and that care had to be taken to avoid overlapping. It was agreed that, in addition to the situation report now in progress, the Secretariat should also prepare a brief paper describing the related programs of work of other agencies and the present state and possible future development of inter-agency cooperation.

Mr. Deschars (OEEC) referred to an OEEC report pointing to the need for a detailed study of the technical problems which hamper European trade in fruit and vegetables. This study is to be carried out by OEEC in close cooperation with FAO and ECE.

10. Intergovernmental Policies and Arrangements for Agricultural Products

The Committee reviewed FAO's relations with other intergovernmental commodity bodies and gave some attention to intergovernmental policies and arrangements for agricultural products and to the role which the CCP and its Secretariat could play in coordinating the policies and arrangements of these bodies with the policies and objectives of the FAO.

The Committee commended the Secretariat for having provided, in CCP 52/12, a good deal of useful information on the activities of other intergovernmental commodity bodies, and noted with approval that the FAO Secretariat's relations with these bodies were generally satisfactory, having been developed partly on a rather informal basis which in certain circumstances could produce better results than strictly formal relationships. The Committee encouraged the Secretariat in continuing to develop its contacts, and requested that reports on the lines of document CCP 52/12 should be prepared periodically for the information of the Committee.

While it was made clear that in essence it was for the Governments themselves to take all possible steps to ensure the adequate coordination of the programs and policies of the various intergovernmental commodity bodies and other bodies of which they were members, the importance of direct inter-organizational coordination was fully recognized. In this connection, the Committee also recognized the importance of the coordinating functions performed by ICCICA of which FAO was a part. The Committee expressed the view that FAO's effective participation in ICCICA would be strengthened further by arranging for

the FAO Member on ICCICA to participate when possible in the meetings of the Committee and by securing the closest possible cooperation of the FAO Member on ICCICA with the Secretariat. The Committee expressed its appreciation of having received an advance copy of the forthcoming Annual ICCICA Review, and noted the advance circulation of this review as one of the instances of useful informal cooperation which should be promoted. It was recognized that the Committee in asking the Secretariat to develop informal contacts of this kind took upon itself the responsibility to promote such contacts by making the most careful use of information released on a confidential basis.

Although the Report prepared by the Secretary General of the United Nations on Procedures for Intergovernmental Consultations on Primary Products had not been placed on the Preliminary Agenda of the only ECOSOC Session to be held in 1952, it was assumed that the Agenda (particularly item 4) would permit a review of some of the provisions of Chapter VI of the Havana Charter and FAO's special responsibilities in regard to commodity policy.

With respect to the activities of Committees of the International Materials Conference dealing with commodities of FAO concern, the CCP expressed the wish that more information should be made available at its future meetings both by the FAO Secretariat and by Member Governments on problems of supply and distribution of materials needed for the manufacture of agricultural requisites, notably sulphur.

In considering FAO's relations with the specialized intergovernmental commodity bodies it was recognized, in accordance with the Report of the Sixth Session of the FAO Conference, that a primary responsibility for the development of policies rested with these specialized bodies. However, FAO through its observers attending specialized intergovernmental commodity meetings had a special responsibility of representing wider considerations beyond the immediate problems of the commodity in question, with special reference to FAO policies and objectives. In this connection some Members of the Committee wondered whether some provisions of the Draft Sugar Agreement were in line with the objectives established by the FAO Conference. It was pointed out by the Delegate for Cuba that the Draft Sugar Agreement simply sets down, on the one hand, proposals on which all the participating Governments are in agreement, and, on the other hand, proposals which various Governments wished to have considered but on which no decisions have yet been taken; consequently no contradictions can be said to exist at this stage between the Draft Sugar Agreement and the objectives established by the FAO Conference.

The Committee stressed the importance of studies to be undertaken by the Secretariat on forms of marketing techniques and on the scope and effects of various types of international commodity agreements, especially in respect to their influence in the broadest sense on the supply of agricultural products.

11. International Commodity Stabilization Techniques

The Committee gave some consideration to the text on "International Commodity Agreements" in the U.N. Experts' Report on "Measures for International Economic Stability". It was noted that the U.N. experts' approach of regarding international commodity agreements as important general stabilizing aids rather than merely as emergency measures for dealing with existing or threatening surplus situations was well in accordance with the views expressed by the Sixth Session of the FAO Conference in Resolution No.11 on Commodity Control Agreements. Some Members pointed out, however, that the U.N. Experts' Report, while endorsing some of the lines now being followed in intergovernmental commodity consultations and generally agreeing with the present state of official

thinking on some of these matters, did not contribute any major new ideas to the solution of commodity problems by means of international arrangements. It was recognized that the Committee's discussion at the present meeting could only be of a preliminary character, pending the full discussion of the Report at the next session of the Economic and Social Council.

The Committee next considered FAO's own work program in the field of Commodity Stabilization Techniques. Mr. Bourne explained that, in addition to work on national policies referred to above, special attention was being given by the Secretariat at this stage to a study of the scope and effects of long-term contracts, and to the role of buffer stocks in international commodity stabilization techniques. The results of these studies would be presented to the CCP as they became available.

12. Summary Record

It was agreed not to issue a separate Report of the Eighteenth Meeting but instead to circulate as a Council document the Summary Record of the proceedings. The question of presenting a Report to the Council could then be considered further at the Nineteenth Meeting which was scheduled to precede the next Session of the Council.

The Secretariat was instructed to circulate a draft summary record to all representatives attending the Meeting, for comment by a given date, and then to prepare a revised version for general circulation to FAO Member Governments.

13. Release of Information to the Press

After some discussion, the Committee decided not to issue a press release itself but to leave it to the discretion of the Director-General to release to the press such information on the Eighteenth Meeting as he deemed appropriate.

14. Time and Place of Next Two Meetings

It was agreed that the Nineteenth Meeting of the CCP should be held in Rome from June 3 - 6, and that another and possibly more extended meeting should be tentatively scheduled for some time in October or November, preceding the Sixteenth Session of the Council.

15. Agenda for Nineteenth Meeting

The following points were suggested for inclusion in the Provisional Agenda for the Nineteenth Meeting:

1. Adoption of Provisional Agenda
2. Review of the World Agricultural Commodity Situation, with special reference to:

- Wheat
- Coarse Grains
- Livestock Products
- Fats and Oils
- Fertilizers

FAO ARCHIVES

3. Rice
4. Food and Famine
5. Fish
6. Activities of other Intergovernmental Commodity Bodies, with special reference to:
 - ECOSOC
 - International Wheat Council
 - International Sugar Council
 - International Cotton Advisory Committee
7. Commodity Stabilization Techniques
8. Impediments to World Trade in Food and Agricultural Products
9. Netherlands Memorandum on the Stimulation of the Consumption of Milk and Dairy Products
10. Trade in Fruit and Vegetables
11. Report to the Council
12. Time and Place of Next Meeting
13. Any other Business

In connection with Agenda Item No.8, it was agreed that the Committee did not intend to engage upon a detailed examination of obstacles to international trade in agricultural products but that a more general discussion of these matters would be of value. It was noted that it would not be possible for the Secretariat to prepare any special documentation on the subject for the next CCP Meeting but it was suggested that Members might wish to contribute statements on points which they regarded as of special interest.

16. Translation

The representatives of Spanish-speaking countries requested that at future meetings daily summary records should be prepared for circulation in the official languages, and that all CCP documents should be translated from now on and distributed in all official languages as well in advance as possible of the date of the meeting.