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# European Communities

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## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1980 - 1981

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29 August 1980

DOCUMENT I-341/80  
annexes

## Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Development and Cooperation

**on the European Community's contribution to the campaign against  
hunger in the world**

**Rapporteur: Mr B. FERRERO**

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At its September 1979 part-session the European Parliament referred four motions for resolutions on the problem of world hunger<sup>1</sup> to its Committee on Development and Cooperation as the committee responsible.

At its meeting of 2 October 1979 the committee instructed the principal authors of the four motions for resolutions to submit to it a ~~joint draft~~ motion for a resolution. The Committee considered and adopted this text at its meeting of 10 October 1979.

On 25 October 1979 Parliament held a debate of several hours on world hunger<sup>2</sup> on the basis of the motion for a resolution drawn up by the Committee on Development and Cooperation<sup>3</sup>. In view of the large number of amendments tabled (25), the chairman of the Committee on Development and Cooperation proposed that the motion for a resolution be referred back to the committee.

At its meeting of 6 November 1979, after the authors had provisionally withdrawn their amendments, the committee adopted a modified motion for a resolution which was approved by Parliament on 16 November 1979.<sup>4</sup>

In paragraph 6 of this resolution Parliament instructed the Committee on Development and Cooperation, acting in concert with the other parliamentary committees, to draw up by February 1980 a comprehensive and fundamental report on how the European Community could and should make a practical contribution towards eliminating world hunger.

At its meeting of 6 November 1979 the committee accepted a proposal from the Socialist Group on the organization of the work of preparing the report on hunger in the world<sup>5</sup>. On 22 November 1979 Commissioner Cheysson also presented a working document to the committee. On the basis of these two working documents the committee drew up a work programme and the terms of reference for the various working documents.

On 22 November 1979 the committee decided to form a working party on world hunger and appointed the following members :

Mrs K. Focke (Soc, D), Mr B. Ferrero (Com, I), Mr M. Pannella (CDI, I), Mr V. Sabl  (Lib, F), Mr W. J. Vergeer (EPP, NL) and Sir Frederick Warner (ED, GB).

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<sup>1</sup> - Doc. 1-322/79/rev. by Mrs Bonino, Mr Pannella and others;  
- Doc. 1-327/79/rev. by Mr Klepsch and others on behalf of the European People's Party;  
- Doc. 1-355/79 by Mr Glinne on behalf of the Socialist Group;  
- Doc. 1-358/79 by Mr Pajetta and others on behalf of the Communist and Allies Group

<sup>2</sup> OJ, Debates of the European Parliament, No. 246, October 1979, p. 227 et seq.

<sup>3</sup> Doc. 1-393/79 of 12.10.1979

<sup>4</sup> Doc. 1-480/79 of 9.11.1979

<sup>5</sup> Doc. PE 60.974

At its meeting of 19 December 1979 the committee appointed Mr B. Ferrero rapporteur and Mr R. Simmonds as a member of the working party to replace Sir Frederick Warner.

The rapporteur decided not to draw up one of the working documents and agreed that Mr Pannella should assume responsibility for his area.

It was agreed that the individual working documents should deal with the following areas :

- Mrs Focke : An effective food-aid policy which takes into account the needs of hunger-stricken countries and peoples - emergency aid;
- Mr Pannella : Suggestions for an extraordinary effort in the years 1980-1982 and suggestions and problems connected with development and intervention in the 90s with special emphasis on the coordination of the economic and political activities of the European Community and its Member States to achieve a genuine and effective policy of development and cooperation;<sup>1</sup>
- Mr Sablé : The relationship between agricultural production and food aid policy - external measures required under the common agricultural policy;
- Mr Simmonds : International trade and organization of the major markets in basic foodstuffs;
- Mr Vergeer : Financial and technical cooperation with the developing countries with a view to the development of agricultural regions and the foodstuffs sector.

The Political Affairs Committee, the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on External Economic Relations and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection which were asked for their opinions, appointed the following draftsmen : Mr C. Jackson (ED, GB), Mr J. Brøndlund Nielsen (Lib, DK), Mrs H. Wieczorek-Zeul (Soc, D) and Mrs V. Squarcialupi (Com, I).

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<sup>1</sup> Mr Pannella's working document is not yet available.

The Committee on Development and Cooperation organized two hearings in Brussels on the problem of world hunger. The first took place on 18 and 19 February 1980. The participants included Mr Tanco, President of the World Food Council and Minister for Agriculture of the Phillipines, Mr Brandt, Chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Germany and President of the North-South Commission, Mr Gilman, member of the United States Presidential Committee on World Hunger, Mr Diouf, Minister of Scientific and Technical Research of Senegal, Mr Huda, Minister of Finance of Bangladesh, and Mr Chonchol, former Minister of Agriculture of Chile.

The second hearing was held on 1 and 2 April 1980. Participants included Mr Saouma, Director-General of the FAO, Mr Parotte, Executive Secretary of the International Wheat Council, Mr Shihata, Secretary-General of the OPEC Special Fund, Mr van Gennip, representing Caritas Internationalis, Mr Jackson, representing OXFAM, Mr Thomas, a member of the Board of Unilever, Mr Doumeng, from the Compagnie Interagra, Mr de Maeyer, from the World Health Organization, Professor Mazoyer from the Institut National Agronomique in Paris, and Professor Lipton from the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex.

In view of the technical problems, particularly the refusal of authorization to hold meetings of the working party during plenary sessions in Strasbourg and the considerable delays in the drafting and translation of working documents, the rapporteur had pointed out at the committee meeting of 19 December 1979 that it would be impossible to meet the February deadline for a discussion of the report in plenary session. It also proved impossible to meet the April deadline for the same reasons and because of the dates of the hearings. The report could not be included in the agenda for the July part-session because this was already full.

The working party met on 11 and 18 December 1979, 15, 23 and 31 January 1980, 19 February 1980, 17 March 1980, 22, 28/29 April 1980 and 22 May 1980.

The Committee on Development and Cooperation considered the problem of hunger in the world at its meetings of 2, 10 and 31 October 1979, 6 and 22 November 1979, 19 December 1979, 15, 23 and 31 January 1980, 28 April 1980 and 29 May 1980.

At its meetings of 18 June and 25 June 1980, the committee considered the motion for a resolution and at its meeting of 8 July 1980 adopted it unanimously with two abstentions.

Present : Mr Poniatowski, chairman; Mr Bersani, vice-chairman; Mr Denis, vice-chairman; Mr Ferrero, rapporteur; Mrs Cassanmagnago Cerretti (deputizing for Mr Lecanuet), Mr Cohen, Mr Enright, Mrs Focke, Mr Griffiths (deputizing for Mr Lezzi), Mr Howell (deputizing for Mr Simmonds), Mr Marshall, Mr Michel, Mr Narducci, Mr Pannella (deputizing for Mrs Castellina), Mr Pearce, Mrs Rabbethge, Mr Vergeer, Mr Vitale (deputizing for Mr Pajetta), Sir Frederick Warner, Mr Wawrzik and Mrs Wieczorek-Zeul (deputizing for Mr Glinne).

The opinions of the Political Affairs Committee, the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on External Economic Relations and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection will be published separately.

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A

The Committee on Development and Cooperation hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the European Community's contribution to the campaign to eliminate hunger in the world

The European Parliament,

- recalling its resolution of 16 November 1979 on hunger in the world (Doc. 1-480/79),<sup>(1)</sup>
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Development and Cooperation (Doc. 1-341/80) and opinions of the Political Affairs Committee, the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on External Economic Relations and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection (Doc. 1-341/80/Ann.),
  - having regard to the preparatory work carried out by the Committee on Development and Cooperation, both in its working party and specific reports (Doc. 1-341/80/Ann.) and in the public hearings it has organized,
  - concerned at the scale of the problem of world hunger and at its consequences for the lives of hundreds of millions of human beings,
  - convinced that the chronic undernourishment of the poorest nations is one aspect of the general problem of underdevelopment,
  - considering that, in the present international economic and monetary crisis, the imbalance between industrialized and developing countries has increased still further and has become one of the major causes of tension and of the deterioration in the international situation,
1. Affirms that the campaign against hunger must be given priority in the search for fair and lasting solutions to the sources of conflict which are threatening the future of mankind;
  2. Appeals to its electorate in an attempt to stimulate the political will needed to overcome the difficulties which are hindering the achievement of this objective;
  3. Requests the Council and Commission on the basis of the following guidelines and proposals:
    - (a) to draw up a coherent series of measures for the campaign against hunger with a view to the global North-South negotiations and to the adoption by the UN of a strategy for the Third Development Decade,
    - (b) to implement, in close coordination with the Member States and the various international organizations, a policy which will help to guarantee the developing countries' food supplies;

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(1) OJ no C 309 of 10.12.1979, p. 42

(a) with regard to the campaign against hunger in the context of a new relationship between industrialized and underdeveloped countries

4. Considers that the independent and balanced development of each country or region, taking as its starting point the expansion of the internal market and the production structures of the developing countries and a substantial improvement in the purchasing power of their peoples, is a prerequisite for the elimination of underdevelopment and hunger;
5. Emphasizes, in this connection, the need to step up efforts to establish a new more equitable system of international relations; recognizes that this implies in particular:
  - far-reaching adjustments to the production methods and way of life in the industrialized countries,
  - an increasing reallocation of current expenditure on arms to development aid;
  - a massive transfer of financial and technological resources to the least-favoured regions and countries;
6. Notes the proposals contained in the Brandt report and requests the Commission to consider them in detail and to make specific suggestions concerning their possible implementation, in particular with regard to a more universal and automatic system of development finance;
7. Draws attention to the fact that most of the Community Member States have failed to meet the commitment to allocate at least 0.7% of their gross national product to public development aid; therefore requests the Council to ask the Member States to draw up a timetable giving specific dates for the fulfilment of this commitment as soon as possible;
8. Requests that Community aid as a percentage of Member States' bilateral aid be increased progressively;
9. Is concerned at the growing indebtedness of the developing countries which are simultaneously hit by the crises in the food and energy sectors and the general economic crisis;
10. Insists that the Community and the Member States contribute to the setting up, as a matter of urgency, of specific measures to relieve the alarming balance of payments problems facing these countries; this in particular involves, in the spirit of the declaration published following the industrialized countries' Summit in Venice:
  - (a) support for mechanisms for the recycling of petrodollars,

- (b) the extension of the World Bank's activities to the financing of programmes aimed at structural adjustments in developing countries,
- (c) pressure should be exerted so that all the principal industrialized countries should contribute immediately to the increase, which has already been decided on, of IMF quotas and the reconstitution of IDA resources,
- (d) ~~increased~~ use of IMF resources under conditions which would take account of the particular problems of developing countries;

11. Considers the proposals from the WFC and the FAO to be of particular interest, their aim being to enable the developing countries to finance their imports of essential goods, above all food products, by using the financial concessions provided by the IMF to a greater extent.

12. Considers that, to eliminate mass hunger and undernourishment, it is essential for as many of the developing countries as possible to achieve self-sufficiency in food; for this purpose it is necessary to strengthen the ability of those developing countries which import food products to satisfy their own food requirements by expanding their agricultural development;

13. Requests the Commission and Council to pay particular attention, in all sectors of development policy including the commercial aspects, to the poorest developing countries and those most affected by the problem of hunger;

14. Requests the Commission and Council, in order to help increase the transfer of resources to the rural development of the developing countries, to enter a substantial sum in the 1981 budget for the revival and strengthening of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) (in which, on a narrow basis of parity, the industrialized countries, the Member countries of OPEC, and the developing countries cooperate on projects aimed at increasing food production and consumption in the poorest developing countries) so that the Community as such can participate in this fund, the resources of which should be increased from 1,000 million to at least 3,000 million dollars,

- (b) with regard to the agricultural development of the developing countries

15. Takes the view that, in order to satisfy the developing countries' food requirements (which are increasing as a result, inter alia, of the rapid population growth) national development programmes must accord high priority to agricultural and rural development;

16. Emphasizes that this priority depends in the first instance on a choice to be made by the developing countries but that its implementation depends decisively both on the system of international trade and the economic policies of the more advanced countries and on the technical and financial resources provided by the latter for cooperation in the agricultural and rural sector;
17. Regards with interest the adoption by the developing countries of suitable food strategies at local, national and regional level; considers that the Community should support these strategies and, in particular, calls on the Council and Commission to:
- provide appropriate financial assistance based, inter alia, on multiannual financing measures and financing provided jointly with Member States or international organizations;
  - guarantee the technical aid needed to enable the developing countries concerned to define and implement their own food strategies;
  - include rural development cooperation (above all in connection with the programming of aid) in the developing countries' food strategies;
  - increase and improve aid for the rural development of the non-associated developing countries but without prejudice to the normal evolution of relations with the ACP countries;
18. Considers that, in the context of the strategies adopted by developing countries, cooperation by the Community in agricultural and rural development should be directed towards a number of vital objectives, in particular:
- to ensure global and balanced growth in which agricultural development and industrial expansion are strictly interdependent;
  - to orient production structures more closely to internal requirements without, however, disregarding the importance of exports for the development process;
  - to encourage the development of rural areas on the basis of integrated programmes designed to develop agriculture, create craft and agri-industrial activities and improve services and infrastructures, and to do so in a manner which ensures a balanced distribution of the population throughout the country concerned;
19. Stresses the importance for agricultural and rural development of factors such as:
- the adoption of national farm price policies which stimulate production;
  - the organization of a system of agricultural credit adapted to the special situation of small farmers in the developing countries;

- the improvement of production-consumption structures and, in particular, the establishment of marketing networks with a view to the gradual development of local and regional markets;
20. Considers that, although the necessary measures may vary from one country to another, agrarian reform is an essential prerequisite to rural development and increased production;
  21. Emphasizes that the rural population and the producers must be directly involved in the development programmes; points out the decisive contribution to the process of participation made by the agricultural workers' associations and by cooperatives; stresses also, in this connection, the role of non-governmental organizations in the implementation of basic rural development projects;
  22. Draws attention to the invaluable role played by training and education and calls on the Community to step up cooperation aimed at promoting special programmes in this sector;
  23. Acknowledges the vital work carried out by women in the developing countries in the production and distribution of agricultural products and in the preparation of foodstuffs and hopes that this will be taken more fully into account in development programmes and, above all, as regards the social, family, demographic, educational and health aspects of the campaign against hunger;
  24. Considers that, to eliminate hunger, it is not only adequate food supplies that are required but also health services and education, drugs to combat diseases connected with undernourishment, etc.; therefore calls on the Community to ensure that its technical and financial aid to the developing countries also covers this sector;
  25. Stresses that scientific and agronomic research
    - (a) should be adapted to the special characteristics of the various rural societies and to their development needs,
    - (b) should contribute both to safeguarding farming traditions and local techniques and to perfecting methods of cultivation and technologies which are suitable for local physical, economic and social conditions and for the energy resources available in each country or region;
  26. Requests the Council and Commission to take steps to increase research facilities in the developing countries and to assist its dissemination;

27. Calls for the early opening of the technical centre for agricultural and rural cooperation provided for in the new Convention of Lomé;
28. Considers that the problem of hunger could be reduced to some extent by increasing the consumption of fish but that this calls for larger stocks and, in many cases, the encouragement of new eating habits; ~~requests the~~ Council and Commission to devote particular attention to improvements in fishing equipment and techniques and to support the measures taken by the developing countries and by international organizations such as the FAO (particularly its programme for exclusive economic zones) with a view to eliminating the technical and organizational difficulties which in many countries are preventing this resource from being fully exploited;
29. Draws attention to the vast quantities of food which are lost after the harvests and requests the Commission and Council:
- (a) in the context of rural development cooperation policy, to provide for practical measures designed to improve harvesting techniques and the arrangements for storage and conservation, particularly with regard to cereals, and
  - (b) to introduce ad hoc training programmes to help ensure that use is made of these measures on a large scale;
30. Feels that the implementation of the objectives of agricultural and rural development should be accompanied by proper soil management and by a policy designed to preserve or re-establish the ecological balance through the adoption of local, national and regional projects relating in particular to soil consolidation, afforestation, measures to halt the process of desertification and the balanced utilization of water resources;
- (c) with regard to Community food aid
31. Considers that Community food aid should be reviewed and adjusted in the light of the security of food supplies and the agricultural and rural development of the developing countries;
32. Requests the Council and Commission to ensure that as far as possible food aid goes hand in hand with practical agricultural and rural development projects, to plan accordingly the technical and financial aid to the ACP countries and the non-associated developing countries and to provide for multiannual food aid commitments;

33. Asks the Council and Commission to allow food aid also to be used to establish emergency reserves in the developing countries;
34. Emphasizes the need for Community aid to be adapted more closely to the food requirements of the peoples concerned and recommends more frequent purchases of foodstuffs from the regions and the developing countries which border on the countries receiving the aid ('three-way transactions');
35. Calls on the Commission to strengthen, reorganize and coordinate its services more effectively with a view to:
  - improving and speeding up the provision of aid (in particular by means of a basic regulation on transport),
  - eliminating abuses and increasing the transparency of aid management, taking account of past criticisms and of those contained in the special report by the Court of Auditors,
  - improving and increasing the regularity of controls, beginning with quality control;
36. Requests the Council to adopt the regulation on food aid without further delay;
37. Requests the Commission (a) to prepare a detailed document on food aid since 1974 and on the prospects for the next few years, and (b) to submit an annual report on food and emergency aid;
38. Asks that Community aid in cereals be increased beyond the minimum obligation laid down in the new Food Aid Convention as from the 1981 financial year; the 1982 financial commitment should be raised to a level equivalent to a contribution by the Community and the Member States of 2.5 million tonnes (given estimated world requirements of 12.5 million tonnes);
39. Considers, however, that the increase in aid in the form of skimmed milk powder and butteroil should, under present circumstances, be contingent upon the genuine possibility of direct distribution to the peoples concerned and upon safety guarantees with regard to health; points out, in this connection, that certain Western practices - such as bottle-feeding babies with skimmed-milk powder products, which the WHO has already criticized - cannot be exported to the developing countries without suitable health education, above all among women;
40. Considering that, in addition to food aid as such, the Community should be in a position to provide effective aid in the event of serious natural or other disasters and considering, also, that experience in recent years has shown that there is a growing need for such aid and that it must be administered with extreme speed and flexibility,

feels that it is essential to increase the budget appropriations allocated to emergency aid substantially;

41. Calls on the Council and Commission to make every effort to enable the new food aid agreement finally to enter into force;
42. Requests that, at the forthcoming global North-South negotiations, ~~for~~ which agenda the Community has proposed the inclusion of an item 'Food', the Community should make a number of positive offers, in particular:
  - additional technical aid for the preparation of food strategies;
  - financial and technical aid for the establishment and management of food stocks in the developing countries;
  - a voluntary increase in Community aid in cereals to a level higher than the minimum commitments laid down in the new food aid agreement;
  - an appropriate contribution to the emergency food reserve and adoption of FAO and WFC proposal to guarantee this reserve by means of an international agreement;
- (d) with regard to international trade in agricultural and food products
43. Emphasizes that, in connection also with the campaign to eliminate mass hunger and undernourishment, the more advanced countries should adapt their commercial policies, above all as regards trade in food and other agricultural products, to the developing countries' requirements relating to:
  - (a) greater participation in international trade,
  - (b) the stabilization of their food supplies;
44. Requests the Commission to carry out a study on:
  - (a) the effects of the CAP on international trade in foodstuffs
  - (b) the effects of Community agricultural exports on world markets and on the developing countries;
45. Requests the Commission to draw up a trade policy in the agricultural sector which would be compatible with the Community's development policy;
46. Calls on the Commission and Council to take immediate action:
  - (a) gradually to reduce the administrative and tariff measures which have a detrimental effect on the developing countries' agricultural exports and
  - (b) as a priority to open up the Community market to agricultural and processed products originating in the poorest associated and non-associated developing countries;

47. Recognizes that the concessions made during the Tokyo Round in respect of agricultural products and processed agricultural products from the developing countries are inadequate; considers that the generalized system of preferences applicable after 1980 should be improved as regards both

- the quantities and types of products which benefit from the tariff concessions, and
- the simplicity, effectiveness and flexibility of its operation, so as to take particular account of the requirements of the developing countries which have hitherto derived insufficient benefit from the system;

48. Considers that the Community should actively help to stabilize and improve the organization of the major international markets, in particular the agricultural markets;

49. Calls on the Commission and Council
  - (a) to take steps to ensure the early and effective operation of the 'Common Fund for the Stabilization of Commodity Markets' and the implementation of the 'Integrated Programme for Raw Materials';
  - (b) to encourage, as regards the various agricultural and mineral products, the conclusion of agreements designed to stabilize prices in accordance with the UNCTAD guidelines, and in particular by the building up of buffer stocks;
50. Calls on the Commission and Council to contribute actively by suitable measures, to the stabilization of the export revenue of the developing countries;
51. Calls for the Community to join the International Sugar Agreement, in accordance with the undertaking given at the last meeting of the EEC-ACP Joint Committee in Arusha;
52. Requests the Community to take an active part in the preparations for the resumption of the negotiations on a new international cereals agreement, which should be regarded as the key-stone of the new international food order (and which should be concluded by mid-1981), and to make every effort to ensure that this agreement provides a satisfactory solution for the establishment of emergency stocks in the developing countries;
53. Considers that there is an urgent need for international rules governing the activities of multinational companies in order, on the one hand, to eliminate their adverse effects and to bring them into line with the development needs of the developing countries and, on the other hand, to provide a reliable reference for private and public investment;  
requests the governments of the Member States to give explicit instructions to their representatives so that the work in progress at the United Nations and its agencies may soon produce concrete results; feels also that, as an initial step, it would be useful for the Community to draw up, as soon as possible, its own code of conduct for multinationals taking the Treaty as its starting-point;
54. Requests the Commission and Council to encourage, through appropriate financial and technical cooperation instruments, the economic independence of developing countries, in particular by contribution to the creation of the developing countries' own economic structures for production, processing and marketing;
55. Takes the view that the Community should support any initiative (for example, economic and regional groupings of developing countries) designed to strengthen the developing countries' negotiating capacity and their collective autonomy;

56. Instructs the Committee on Development and Cooperation, together with the other competent committees, to
- (a) monitor progress in the implementation of the guidelines and proposals contained in this resolution
    - as regards the decisions which must be taken at Community level,
    - ~~as~~ regards the measures which must be taken either by individual Member States or collectively in political cooperation,
    - as regards Community initiatives in the context of major international negotiations;
  - (b) submit to it a regular report on the food situation and the results achieved in the campaign against hunger and malnutrition, with particular reference to the Community's contribution;
57. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission and to the Secretary-General of the UNO and to its specialized agencies.

B

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

I.

The statistical facts relating to hunger in the world are well known. However, it is worthwhile listing the following, which have been taken from FAO and World Food Council publications:

- depending on the definition of 'enough', there are between 500 million and 1,300 million people who do not have enough to eat;
- more than half of these are children, in whom malnutrition causes irreparable physical and mental damage (every year 250 thousand children go blind through lack of vitamin A);
- one third of all children born in the developing countries die before they are five from undernourishment and related diseases.

This is the scale of a problem which is an unacceptable scandal of our age.

1. Not only have the objectives laid down in 1974 by the United Nations World Food Conference with a view to eliminating hunger not been achieved, not only are there more starving people today than there were then, but in all likelihood the situation will deteriorate still further.

If suitable measures are not taken and radical changes made, there is a danger that, in the next few years, a still greater proportion of the population of the Third World will be condemned to live in increasingly acute conditions of dire poverty and chronic undernourishment (according to estimates by the World Bank, there are today already 800 million people - more than one third of the population of the developing countries - living below what is referred to as the 'absolute poverty line', that is, in such backward conditions that they are unable even to satisfy the most elementary human needs).

This deterioration is strikingly exemplified by the increasingly frequent famines affecting whole regions of Africa, Asia and Latin America. These emergencies are usually due to natural disasters or are connected with tragic political events. However, they also represent an acute manifestation of a more deep-rooted crisis, of structural trends and imbalances characterizing the present food situation in the underdeveloped areas and in the world in general.

2. Let us look at a few more statistics. The 1974 Rome Conference decided that an annual average growth rate of 4% in the agricultural and food production of the developing countries was both necessary and attainable. However, the 43 developing countries considered to be of priority importance in respect of their food deficit now have less food than ten years ago (they have achieved an increase in food production of only 2%, which is lower than the rate of population growth. In Africa, per capita food production fell by 1.2% a year during the period 1970-1978.

Food production expressed in relative terms (and in some cases, in absolute terms, i.e. without reference to the population) is decreasing in most of the Third World, imports are increasing and there is growing dependence, both industrial and agricultural, on the economically more advanced countries.

For many years now the developing countries, which until the middle of the century as a whole enjoyed substantial self-sufficiency in food, have been forced to import massive and growing quantities of cereals: more than 80 million tonnes in 1979 and estimates of between 125 and 145 million tonnes in 1990.

This situation clearly results in the first instance from the imbalance in the development of the agriculture and, in general, of the economies of the countries concerned. The fact that many developing countries specialize in the production of only one or in any event very few agricultural raw materials for export has not only had an adverse effect on the cultivation of products for internal markets and on the extent to which local food requirements can be satisfied. In addition it has vastly increased these countries' dependence on the international market, where price trends are to a large extent controlled by a handful of multinational undertakings and are subject to speculative dealings.

## II.

1. Many views have been expressed and many analyses have been carried out in connection with the mass undernourishment in the Third World, its causes and its links with poverty and under-development.

Above all in recent times - particularly with a view to the resumption of the North-South negotiations and on the eve of the drafting of the United Nations strategy for the third development decade - throughout world opinion the alarm has been sounding with increasing urgency; there have been many more warnings appeals and initiatives.

Practical solutions, which are so necessary, have been put forward in various quarters and on many of these there seems to be extremely broad agreement in principle.

In particular, and without repeating here the contents of the resolution and of the annexed documents, certain points are becoming increasingly clear:

- the campaign against poverty and hunger in the world must be seen as an essential and supremely important aspect of a new development strategy;
- in order to carry out this task effectively the concept of merely providing assistance must be abandoned and priority must be given to promoting the complete restructuring of the agricultural production process (by encouraging the cultivation of unused land, planting those crops which are most suited to the terrain and to the eating habits of the peoples concerned and increasing average yield); however, effective modernization of agriculture is possible only in the context of agrarian reforms which will have a lasting effect on the state of immobility and stagnation which all too frequently still pervades country life in the under-developed regions;
- the developing countries themselves with policies determined freely and independently must make a massive effort to expand their agricultural production capacity with a view to achieving self-sufficiency in food, and their efforts that must be backed up by appropriate scientific, technical and financial cooperation with the economically more advanced countries; in this connection, international action is also vital in order to remove those obstacles which place the agriculture of the developing countries - and in particular of the poorest and of those worst hit by hunger - at a disadvantage vis-à-vis the protected agricultures of the industrialized countries, and to establish an effective system of securing world food supplies.

2. There is therefore no lack of analyses and proposals. The calls for action are becoming more and more urgent. There are ample and clear indications of what needs to be done and yet very little real progress has been made: there is a yawning discrepancy between the seriousness and urgency of the problems and the measures taken to deal with them.

Indeed, whereas the richer countries are indulging in enormous wastage of resources (it has been calculated that world arms expenditure now totals one million dollars a minute), the level of development aid is falling. Notwithstanding the UN resolution inviting the industrialized countries to allocate at least 0.7% of their gross national product to

public development aid, aid granted by the OECD countries actually fell from 0.35% in 1975 to 0.34% in 1979. Moreover, this aid has been swallowed up by inflation and by interest payments on debts which have now become an unbearable burden (the indebtedness of the developing countries now totals 60,000 million dollars).

In addition, aid policy is inadequate not only from a quantitative but also from a qualitative point of view. Aid is necessary and, indeed, should be substantially increased, but in particular it should be directed more towards structural measures, above all in agriculture and rural development. The fact nevertheless remains that aid policies have been and are still intrinsically limited by the fact that they form part of, and do not alter in any way, a system of international economic and political relations based on inequality and on domination by the strongest countries and the large multinationals. It is this system which must be changed if we are to wage an effective campaign against hunger and poverty in the Third World.

3. The rapporteur would like at this point to draw attention to a general conclusion which, in his opinion, is prompted by all the work which has gone into the preparation of this report.

There are specific causes and reasons which explain the continuation and worsening of the food crisis and whose practical aspects must be examined and approached in all their complexity. However, in seeking the true source of the problem, it becomes clear that hunger is merely the most dramatic and explosive manifestation of more fundamental processes and cannot be eliminated without attacking its very roots.

Practical and effective solutions are needed to combat hunger but such solutions can only be found by tackling the problem at its roots and these roots are to be found in the relations between developed and underdeveloped areas, that is, in the international economic order.

The expression 'new economic order' is on everyone's lips, to the point where it has become a ritual expression and too frequently has only rhetorical value. But this call for a new order is not only based on the need for equity and justice, but is in fact an objective necessity.

This is because a decisive and realistic political initiative designed to establish a new basis for international economic relations is the only way of ensuring security and stability in the world and of establishing lasting peace.

It is also because the crisis which has hit hardest of all the peoples of the Third World is now hitting the industrialized countries and will do so to a greater extent in future, forcing everyone to seek new forms of cooperation.

Only a hypocrite and demagogue could believe that emergence from underdevelopment for the peoples of the Third World can coexist with the ~~existing~~ production and consumption systems of the industrialized countries. In addition to changes within the economies and societies of the underdeveloped countries, the solution to the problems of underdevelopment, and first and foremost the problem of hunger, calls for far-reaching social and economic adjustments and major cultural and ideological changes in the more advanced countries. It is surely evident that the crisis affecting these countries cannot be resolved other than through such changes and adjustments, which are essential for a resumption of a development no longer based on the exploitation and underdevelopment of the vast majority of mankind.

### III.

Following Parliament's debate on world hunger last October, the Committee on Development and Cooperation was instructed to propose practical measures relating to food aid, financial and technical aid in the agricultural and development sectors and ways of guaranteeing food supplies.

It was not the aim of the committee and the ad hoc working party set up within it to add further studies or general action programmes to those already in existence. Rather, in order to make a real contribution to the campaign against hunger, it seemed essential to put forward a consistent series of practical proposals - in other words as precise, concrete and feasible as possible - to which the coordinated efforts of the Community and its Member States could be applied, both directly and in the context of international cooperation. At the same time these proposals should prompt a movement of public opinion designed to arouse a political will equal to the objectives to be achieved.

It is this concept on which the above resolution is based. In drafting it the rapporteur has drawn largely on the annexed documents.

The resolution should therefore be considered in close connection with these documents, which consist of the comments of the committees asked for opinions and of the working documents drawn up by the members of the Working Party on Hunger in the World. Taken as a whole these working documents constitute individual reports in their own right and

are interconnected. They take account, inter alia, of the outcome of the two public hearings on hunger held in February and April 1980 and of the assistance provided at every stage of the work by the Commission. Although they have not been put to the vote, these documents have been discussed within the working party and within the Committee on Development and Cooperation.

The rapporteur would refer to the annexed material, which provides the background to the proposals and guidelines contained in the resolution being submitted to Parliament, and gives a deeper analysis of the various aspects of hunger in the world and of the measures which the European Community should take to contribute towards its elimination.

