

AGRICULTURE'S ROLE IN THE 1960 DECADE

FOREWORD

In adjusting foreign economic policy to the rapidly changing world of the 1960's, the United States faces major challenges. The intensifying cold war has turned into an engagement of indefinite duration in which the independence of the less developed countries and the survival of Western civilization are stakes. The challenge of "competitive coexistence" is directed to the entire community of Western nations—the free West European countries, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

By no means the least of these challenges is the outlook for continued hunger and malnutrition in many of the less developed countries. Despite efforts to increase agricultural production, in many of these countries the population is growing faster than food supplies. Social conflict, already endemic in some areas, may sharply increase as the struggle over dwindling supplies of food rises. The Communists, who thrive on disorder and subversion, will undoubtedly assume the responsibility for organizing the conflict whenever it arises.

The inadequacy of food production in the Sino-Soviet bloc as a whole precludes any substantial assistance from that area in closing the steadily widening gap between demand and supply in the less developed areas. Thus, the question is whether, by helping to solve agricultural problems, the Western Community can help these four-score countries maintain independence and achieve economic viability. The question, in short, is whether the West will assume responsibility for organizing the progress and the harmonious relations between societies which make progress possible?