

VI. THE NEED FOR QUANTITATIVE GOALS FOR OUR FOREIGN RELIEF FEEDING PROGRAMS

It is probably no exaggeration to say that we are now in a better position than ever before to plan our foreign feeding operations on a stepped-up, stable, continuing basis. Once the nutritional requirements are spelled out in terms of the basic elements of proteins, calories, and fats the range of our supplies is no longer limited to stocks of wheat and corn and uncertain quantities of rice and nonfat dry skim milk. As we have seen, the list of food protein sources that can now be drawn upon includes these and more:

- soybeans
- cottonseed
- peanuts
- sorghums
- wheat
- corn
- rice

Where the feeding programs must meet protein needs and low costs per unit of protein, these availabilities make it possible to devise low cost high protein food combinations in place of merely high cost low protein cereal foods.

But in order to make full use of this wider range of available foods in a more effective expanded foreign food aid program, a greater degree of central direction will be needed than is now given to our feeding programs. That direction could be obtained in large measure by the following action:

1. The Food for Peace Office should request the responsible agencies to draw up a balance sheet of food needs for the less developed countries and match them with current and potential supplies of animal and vegetable proteins, pulses, cereals and vegetable oils, with special attention to the new sources of low cost vegetable proteins.
2. It should request these agencies to prepare a long-range 5- or 10-year program of feeding operations, on the assumption that these operations will for some years to come be a continuous outlet for our low-cost high-protein foods.
3. It should also set up short-range specific quantity goals, such as doubling the present volume of food donations, or doubling the number of recipients, or doubling the rate of feeding in 1962 or 1963.
4. It should present these short- and long-range goals to the voluntary relief agencies on the assumption that they will make the necessary arrangements abroad for carrying out the enlarged programs.
5. Similarly, processors should be asked to submit proposals as to new low-cost products to be included in the expanded and regularized program.
6. Consideration should also be given to making foreign food aid a part of foreign policy operations rather than part of the agricultural production adjustment and price-support programs.