

Food for Peace Program

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ABSTRACT

The Food for Peace Program of the U.S. Agency for International Development started in 1954 and will be continued even in time of short food supplies. The Food for Peace Program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and cooperating food processors developed technology for large scale production of soy grain blended foods.

INTRODUCTION

The Food for Peace Program originally was conceived and enacted in 1954 as a way to put to use the then existing U.S. surplus and, hopefully, in the process, to build markets and relieve emergency created hunger. It has evolved into a program to use our agricultural productivity to combat hunger and malnutrition and to assist developing countries and hungry and malnourished people to produce or purchase commercially their own food needs.

The program has two major points: Title I which authorizes sales on concessional credit terms to countries which lack the foreign exchange with which to buy food imports, and Title II which provides for food donations to combat chronic or emergency created hunger and malnutrition, especially among children, to attack the causes for hunger by supporting food for work activities, and to support family planning efforts, where individual participation is voluntary.

The Title II food is supplied through American Voluntary agencies, such as CARE, the Catholic Relief Services, Church World Science, Lutheran World Relief, and Ameri-

can Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; and international agencies, such as the World Food Program, UNICEF, and UNRWA; and by agencies of the receiving government.

PROGRAM'S RELATIONSHIP TO CONFERENCE

Food for Peace is relevant to the World Soy Protein Conference, because it was under this program that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Agency for International Development, and U.S. food processors joined forces to develop the products and the large scale technology for the production of soy-grain blended foods. However, the major problem is to make these low cost, high nutrition products and other similar products commercially viable. Ways to do this must be found to make a substantial contribution to prevent mental and physical stunting of many of the more than four billion children expected to arrive on this planet within the next 20 years.

I believe that an adequate intake of nutritious food is a consideration of family planning—of human beings using their procreative capability responsibly.

What about the future of Food for Peace? Will it be continued in a time of short supplies? The answer is yes. It is continuing now and the U.S. Congress has agreed to an amendment that authorizes its continuation even if supplies are so scarce as to require the extreme action of imposing export controls.

In conclusion, let me make a final comment about commercial viability of soy-grain products. Although they approximate nutritional equivalency with milk, I do not believe they can be sold on this basis.