



At the opening ceremonies of the A.C.W.W. conference in Melbourne, Australia.

vital tasks as the selection of fertilizers and seeds do not enjoy the same status as the other civil services. Facilities for education in modern agricultural sciences and nutrition are inadequate. Roads and communications in general serving rural communities are often primitive and even non-existent in some places. And, of course, there is the fundamental question of land reform. The need for this is widely recognized, but the social and political difficulties frequently standing in the way of reform measures are immense.

"Your association has shown an intimate and practical understanding of the campaign's nature. This is demonstrated, I think, in the activities you have undertaken on the campaign's behalf. You awarded the first Lady Aberdeen scholarship to Mrs. Rugumayo from Uganda so that she might undertake a year's training at the Department of Human Nutrition in the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. And I particularly note that you are urging that particular attention be given, throughout the campaign, to education in home economics and nutrition at the practical family level. This broad stress on educational and informational work, tied in with such concrete actions as the setting up of nutrition scholarships, gives direct and valuable substance to the campaign's basic aims.

"The World Food Program, as many of you will know, is a joint endeavour of F.A.O. and the U.N. to utilize agricultural surpluses to aid in the economic and social growth of the developing countries, as well as for the immediate alleviation of hunger. At the pledging conference last month at the U.N., thirty-one countries undertook to give commodities and cash to the value of over \$86,000,000 to the Program, and others declared that they will come forward with their pledges as soon as their constitutional processes are completed.

"For example, we know that only about one tenth of the land surface of the earth is at

present cultivated. There is no doubt that wide additional areas of land can be brought under cultivation. Take the great, hot, wet belt of rain forest that lies along and across the equator. Despite plentiful rainfall and temperatures that are highly favourable to plant growth, this is very much an agriculturally underdeveloped region.

"Again, there are vast possibilities of extracting food from the sea. At present, only about one per cent of the food consumed by human beings is derived from the sea and inland waters. Scientific development of fisheries, joined with modern methods of preservation and distribution, could add greatly to the world's supply of edible protein.

"And, of course, the possibilities of increased yields from land already under cultivation are truly tremendous. Look at the methods and means at our disposal for bringing about such increased yields: the better use and control of water; the building up of soil fertility; seed improvement and plant breeding; curbing losses caused by pests and diseases; better farm equipment and management and more efficient agricultural services; the breeding and improved feeding of livestock."

Mr. Weisl reported cases of increased production in several areas and declared that a world where every man, woman and child has the necessities of life is no longer an Utopia. As to how A.C.W.W. can help, he said:

"First of all, we appeal to you again to publicize the campaign through all your information and publicity channels and working with the spirit and conviction of missionaries, convert all your members to the cause. In your own countries, continue your participation in your national Freedom From Hunger Committee and your contacts with national F.A.O. committees, and work with and through them in furtherance of the campaign."

A conference recommendation that came