

Resolutions adopted by the Emergency Conference on European Cereals (London, 3-6 April 1946)

Caption: On 6 April 1946, the Emergency Conference on European Cereals Supplies in London adopts a series of resolutions aimed at improving the agricultural situation in the countries of Europe.

Source: Emergency Conference on European Cereals Supplies held in London from 3rd to 6th April 1946. London: 1946.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/resolutions_adopted_by_the_emergency_conference_on_european_cereals_london_3_6_april_1946-en-d421df26-c9e6-4de7-a62e-c7805a3479b0.html

Publication date: 22/10/2012

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Infestation Control (No 3 in M.P. 52)

The Emergency Conference on European Cereals Supplies:

Considering that the present food crisis in European countries makes it necessary to reduce the losses of foodstuffs, particularly cereals, to a minimum, and

Considering that the food situation will most probably remain critical throughout 1946/47;

AGREES

- (a) that no effort should be spared to inspect immediately port installations, warehouses, mills and other food stores, in order to discover centres of infestation;
- (b) that chemical means should be made available in sufficient quantities effectively to fight rats, mice, grain insects and mites;
- (c) to make immediate preparations to extend to farm barns and other food stores in rural areas, before the new harvest is brought in, the control of infestation by rats, mice, insects and mites;
- (d) to make every effort to produce in sufficient quantities chemicals for the control of infestation in time to save the coming harvest from losses by infestation;
- (e) to take special measures to intensify campaigns against grasshoppers and similar insects destructive to crops; and

URGES

- (a) all participating countries, in which appropriate measures are not already in force, to set up immediately emergency arrangements adequate to carry out the necessary inspection and control of infestation in port areas, warehouses, mills and other food stores, and on farms;
- (b) all European countries, to adopt an active policy against infestation, since, the effectiveness of infestation control in one country is dependent on similar action taken in neighbouring countries.

Food Collection (No. 7 in M.P. 52)

The Emergency Conference on European Cereals Supplies:

Considering that the present food crisis in European countries makes it necessary to maximize now and immediately after the coming harvest the collection of foodstuffs, particularly cereals;

AGREES

that all countries will maintain or intensify their efforts to collect the greatest possible quantity of cereals from farms, and to this end will immediately introduce special measures, suited to the particular situation in

each country, designed:

- (a) to acquaint farmers and peasants with the critical food situation and to enlist their co-operation in increasing deliveries;
- (b) to maintain or intensify the control of the use of grains suitable for human consumption to the extent necessary to ensure that the whole of such grains produced in each country is collected and made available for human consumption except for the minimum quantities required for seed and for self-suppliers' rations and such small quantities as are unusable for human food;
- (c) to give full publicity to the fact that shortage of bread in urban areas will result from the retention on farms for feeding animals of grain suitable for human consumption, and to the fact that the first remedy for bread shortage must be measures to prevent such retention of grain by producers;
- (d) to bring about the greatest possible economy in the use of fodder grains by intensive propaganda, and also, possibly, by controlling the utilization of such grains by means of a system of rationing for farm and urban animals, or by controlling the production and delivery of livestock produce;
- (e) to stamp out the black market and thus prevent the diversion of feeding stuffs for the production of meat and dairy produce in excess of that officially authorized;
- (f) to link delivery controls closely with price controls to ensure the most effective use of grains and potatoes.

[...]

Farm Requisites (No. 10 in M.P. 52)

The Emergency Conference on European Cereals Supplies:

Considering that the present food crisis cannot be overcome if farm requisites continue to be in short supply;

RECOMMENDS

- (a) that every effort should be made to mobilize all available farm labour and volunteers, so that this year's harvest can be gathered and the autumn sowing carried out with the least delay;
- (b) that the farm machinery industries should be asked for their fullest co-operation in securing the largest possible number of harvest, cultivation and sowing machines and the tools and spare parts for those machines;
- (c) that the chemical industries should be asked for their utmost help in supplying the maximum quantities of pesticides, including new types of pesticides recently invented, so that the losses of crops through pests and insects can be kept to a minimum;
- (d) that every effort should be made to increase the production, to speed up the distribution, and to economize in the use of artificial fertilizers, and that farmers should be asked to use, for the time being, fertilizers on arable crops rather than on grassland;

(e) that the greatest emphasis should be given to the transportation of fertilizers and seeds so that they reach the farms in time for the autumn dressing and sowing;

(f) that, within the general economic and reparations policies which have been established, the various Control Authorities in enemy countries should give priority to the production for export of the agricultural requisites mentioned above and of coal.

Allocation of Cereals (No. 13 in M.P. 52)

The Emergency Conference on European Cereals Supplies:

Being of the opinion that the world grain shortage makes it necessary that fodder grains as well as bread grains should be allocated or programmed by the Combined Food Board to meet the requirements for human consumption and for seed, and that — in so far as the available supplies of coarse grains are not reserved in Combined Food Board recommendations for human consumption — allocations of fodder grains should take into account, among other factors, the needs of livestock up to an agreed number in each country;

RESOLVES

to request the Food and Agriculture Subcommittee of the Emergency Economic Committee for Europe to make a recommendation to the Combined Food Board as soon as possible as to the methods by which the allocations of fodder grain for livestock might be determined.