
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
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Series 3: “The Four Freedoms” and FDR in World War II

File No. 1576

1945 March 26

**Message to Congress re Report of the U.S. Interim
Committee on Food and Agriculture**

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 22, 1945.

MEMORANDUM FOR

JONATHAN DANIELS:

To tell me whether I should
sign this but to ask Joe Grew how
long I should hold it before sending
it to the Senate.

F.D.R.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 24, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

PPF
IF

I am attaching a revised copy of a proposed Message to the Congress, asking for the enactment of a Joint Resolution setting up a Food and Agriculture Organization for the United Nations.

x358

x4725-E

This draft has been cut from 2,000 to a little over 600 words.

Secretary Wickard and Acting Secretary Grew have cleared this with Congressional Leaders and are anxious that it go to the Hill the first of the week.

JD

JONATHAN DANIELS

x5230

Sent to Senate 3/26 & to House 3/27
1945

March 24, 1945

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Secretary Wickard and Acting Secretary Grew have cleared this with Congressional Leaders and are anxious that it go to the Hill the first of the week.

JONATHAN DANIELS

jd:mb

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

I am sending herewith for the information and consideration of the Congress the First Report to the Governments of the United Nations by the Interim Commission on Food and Agriculture. Appended to this Report is the Constitution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture at Hot Springs, Virginia, requested the Interim Commission ^{X7725-B} to formulate and recommend.

The Interim Commission has done its work well. It has prepared a plan for a permanent international organization through which governments can pool and extend their knowledge and collaborate with each other in raising the standards of nutrition of their peoples and in establishing and maintaining an expanding prosperity for agriculture in all countries.

I recommend that the Congress authorize the acceptance of the Constitution and the participation of the United States in the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

The United Nations have already made much progress in setting up an organization for international security. But our collaboration

for peace must be on a broader basis than security alone. We must strive to correct the conditions that predispose people toward war or make them the ready tools and victims of aggressors. We shall need also to work together as nations toward achieving freedom from want. Our participation in the Food and Agriculture Organisation will be an essential step in this collaboration.

The Organisation will seek its ends through the provision of international services in agriculture and nutrition which have heretofore been either lacking or inadequate. Among other things, it will provide the means for bringing together from all parts of the world the results of research in all the fields of agriculture and nutrition and for disseminating ideas and advice on how the available information can be of greatest usefulness.

Improved standards of nutrition, increased levels of farm incomes, avoidance of agricultural surpluses — these are among the important objectives that the Food and Agriculture Organisation will assist the nations of the world in achieving. The Organisation will seek to better conditions in food and agriculture by fostering international ^{cooperation} ~~collaboration~~ in developing the optimum use of the resources of land, labor and science. One of its important jobs will be to help

old in improving the marketing of agricultural products *throughout the* ~~world~~

right ~~so that~~ *world* so that ~~farmers~~ farmers can find good markets here and abroad and

continue to produce as fully as is consistent with sound conservation practices.

The Constitution of the Organization provides that it shall include fisheries and forests within the scope of its work, and that in agriculture it shall cover both food and nonfood products. The work of the Food and Agriculture Organization will be primarily technical and advisory. Its staff will be small; its budget will be small, \$2,500,000 for the first year -- with \$625,000 as the share to be borne by the United States -- and about twice that amount in succeeding years. It is in no sense a relief organization.

In becoming a Member of the Food and Agriculture Organization, we will retain complete freedom of action in determining our national agriculture policies. Under its Constitution, the Organization will have no powers of direction or control over any nation. It will recommend agricultural policies and advise nations on their food and agricultural problems, but it will have no power to coerce or command. The Constitution provides that all Member nations shall have equal representation in the conference of the Organization, each ~~being~~

- 4 -

being entitled to one vote. Our responsibilities in joining the Organization are of the same nature as those Congress has heretofore authorized in approving our participation in the Pan American Union.

I therefore recommend that the Congress approve our active participation in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in accordance with its proposed Constitution as set forth in Appendix I of the attached report, and authorize annual appropriations of our share of the budget of the Organization.

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Amending
I transmit herewith for the information and con-

sideration of the Congress the First Report to the Governments
of the United Nations by the Interim Commission on Food and
Agriculture. Appended to this Report is the Constitution of
the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,
which ~~the United Nations requested the Interim Commission~~
Conference on Food and Agriculture at Hot Springs, Virginia, to
formulate and recommend ~~for the consideration of the governments~~
~~and authorities represented at the Conference.~~

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The Interim Commission has prepared a plan for a

permanent international organization through which governments
can pool and extend their knowledge and collaborate with each
other in raising the standards of nutrition of their peoples and
in establishing and maintaining an expanding prosperity for
agriculture in all countries.

I recommend ~~the approval of this Constitution by the~~
~~Government of the United States and request~~ that the Congress ~~take~~
~~steps to~~ authorize the acceptance of the Constitution and
the participation of the United States in the work of the Food
and Agriculture Organization.

Insert

¶ Improved standards of nutrition, increased levels of farm incomes, avoidance of agricultural surpluses — these are ~~the~~ ~~objectives~~ among the important objectives that the Food and Agriculture Organization will assist the Nations of the world in achieving. The Organization will seek to ~~impart~~ better conditions in food and agriculture by fostering international collaboration in developing the optimum use of the resources of land, labor and science. ~~One of its~~ ~~important jobs~~ will be to ~~assist~~ ~~help~~ in improving the ^{production} ~~marketing~~ ~~production~~ of agricultural products throughout the world so that our farmers can find good markets here and abroad and continue to produce as fully as is consistent with sound conservation practices.

If the United Nations have demonstrated their ability
to work together to combat the threat of the aggressor
they have already made much progress toward
in setting up an organization for ~~the future~~ ^{for the future}.
international security to which
it is possible. But our collaboration for peace must be
on a broader basis than security alone. We must strive to correct
the conditions that predispose people toward war or make them the
ready tools and victims of aggressors. ~~we~~ we shall need also to
work together as nations toward achieving freedom from want.
in the Food and Agriculture Organization will be an ^{our participation}
essential step in
his
collaboration.
It is highly fitting that one of our first steps along
a permanent course should be taken in the field of food and
agriculture. Agriculture is the most fundamental of all occupations;
twice as many people are engaged in farming as in all other
occupations combined.

The Food and Agriculture Organization will seek its ends
through the provision of ~~international~~ international services in
agriculture and nutrition which have heretofore been either lacking
or inadequate. Among other things, it will provide the means for
bringing together from all parts of the world the results of research
in all the ~~fields~~ fields of agriculture and nutrition.

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shall include fisheries and forests within the scope of its work,



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Food and Agriculture
Organization

and that in agriculture it shall cover both food and nonfood products.

One of its important tasks will be to help by international collaboration in developing better use of the resources of land, labor, and scientific knowledge.

~~With two-thirds of the world's people living on the land, any widespread increase in the average purchasing power of the farm families of the world would be enormously stimulating to world markets for all different kinds of products.~~

Our food production has been greatly expanded during the war, and so has the food production of many other countries. Moreover, expanded production of industrial substitutes, such as synthetic textiles, promises to add to prospective post-war supplies of some of the nonfood products of agriculture. After production is restored in Europe and Asia, our farmers may again be faced with a chronic surplus of products and low farm prices, as in the years after 1920.

Hence,
Another important task of the Food and Agriculture Organization will be to assist in the improvement of marketing as well as of production throughout the world, so that our farmers can find good markets here and abroad and continue to produce as fully as is consistent with sound conservation practices.

mo 9/ The work of the Food and Agriculture Organization will be primarily technical and advisory. Its staff will be small;

its budget will be small, \$2,500,000 for the first year -- with \$625,000 as the share to be borne by the United States -- and about twice that amount in succeeding years. It is in no sense a relief organization.

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I therefore recommend that the Congress ~~promptly~~ approve our active participation in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in accordance with its proposed Constitution as set forth in Appendix I of the attached report, and authorize annual appropriations of our share of the budget of the Organization.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 24, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Grew and Wickard both tell me that that at Cabinet yesterday they reached a decision differing from Grew's recommendation — which was joined in by the representatives of Agriculture and State — that the Food and Agriculture Message not be sent now.

They tell me that it has been worked out to send a message immediately to Sen. Egan and that Connally has agreed that it be sent to his Committee shortly thereafter, after he has had an opportunity to discuss it with the Committee. *

*Marked +
Connally understands
to House alone
+ not to Senate until after San Francisco.*

JONATHAN DANIELS

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 23, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

It is my judgment that action with regard to this proposed message on Constitution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations should not be signed by the President and sent to the Congress at the present time.

I am attaching a letter from Acting Secretary of State Grew which shows that a number of members of the Foreign Relations Committee, including Senator Vandenberg and Senator Connally, think it would be a mistake to send a message now. I think this is especially true in view of the current confusion in the public mind about the food situation.

If the President agrees that this message should not be sent now, I will keep in touch with the State Department as to the most propitious time for this message.

JONATHAN DANIELS