Aims and Objectives of the Food and Agricultural Program of the U. S. Foreign Operations Administration

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BEFORE he left Washington to attend regional meetings of FOA Agricultural Officers in Europe and the Near and Far East, L. H. Norton asked me to extend to you his deep appreciation for your invitation to take part in this program. He also asked that I extend to all of you his most sincere regret at being unable to attend. He was truly disappointed the last day he was in Washington when he asked me to take his place.

Mr. Norton's misfortune has been my very good fortune. I am very pleased to be able to attend a Society meeting again after having missed the last seven while I have been out of the country.

The subject I am to discuss with you is the "Aims and Objectives of the Food and Agricultural Program of the United States Foreign Operations Administration." Before discussing these aims with you, I would like to digress for a moment and mention some of the points that have affected the situation in which our country now finds itself. Most of these points all of you already know, but I believe that what I have to say will be more clearly understood if you keep them in mind as I talk.

It is an historical fact that after the dissolution of the Roman Empire civilization passed through a period insofar as progress in science, culture and world trade were concerned. This is the period that our history books call the Dark Ages. Now what caused this disastrous stoppage in progress? One explanation, and a very good one, is that no country in the world was prepared to take the leadership in the family of nations. This condition continued until there were nations strong enough to gain and maintain world leadership. At about the time our country won its independence, the great colonial empires of the leading nations of the world began slowly to break up. During our lives this process has been accelerated. We are now living in another age when there is rivalry for world leadership. The accelerating increases in world population have further complicated the situation. I venture to say that no one here today who has not read within recent months some report on the dangers of over-population in the world will not agree that at some future date there would not be enough food to go around. We must and will be prepared to produce more food as population increases.