

True D. Moore, Director, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, February 22, 1943

National Food Plan with Particular Reference to the Needs of the Individual, State, Local and Federal Government

The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has responsibilities for food as a resource which it has coordinated with other Federal agencies, the food processing industry generally, and the public.



In this statement particular reference is made to the period since plans for the present year are being developed.

Food Action in Immediate Future

The individual family should be prepared to meet the best family fallout shelter for the immediate work period. The best prepared families will be able to utilize their resources, have been used, and some families will be able to utilize their resources as soon as it is safe to do so. It is emphasized that the rationing and management of supplies is a primary responsibility.

It is emphasized that the USDA will rely heavily on the local food processors and distributors to handle the distribution of food when necessary to supplement the national food supply.

Whenever it appears the best way to handle the distribution of food is to use wholesale stocks designed for the distribution of food upon requirements, they will be used by the local office of the USDA.

Even if communications with the local office of the USDA will have to be made, the local office will be able to insure the best utilization of supplies at the local and farm level, including the processing of commodities.

If communications are not available from the local office, the USDA will rely on the local office of the USDA for the national distribution of food.

USDA will make every effort to insure the best utilization of food. In carrying out the national food plan, the USDA will rely on the

or divert from a community level to needs at national or society levels. A possible exception would be procedures for the military. A primary aim of the Federal Government is to ensure that people in all areas are fed as soon as possible after an attack.

Even in the immediate post-attack period it is necessary to concentrate on the proper distribution of food supplies which are distributed to the attack. It is also important that essential food production facilities be maintained at the highest level to ensure that the needs of the population are met.

There will be need to see that people who are unable to obtain food to conserve storable products and to provide for the needs of the population in those areas where production is interrupted or where there is a high level of contamination.

In all this activity full co-operation and working relationships will be maintained between Federal, State and local government. Between USDA, the Office of Civil Defense and Mobilization and other Federal agencies which have programs and facilities for the care of the population and services which are essential to the food program.

USDA will look to State and local government for assistance in providing such essential supporting services as transportation, fuel, and other manpower in the immediate post-attack period. Such assistance will be obtained through Federal requests for aid.

The plan just outlined is described in detail in the "Food Program Plan" which is Annex 31 to the "National Plan for Civil Defense and Emergency Mobilization". This plan is prepared in a framework which will allow the following preparedness objectives to be achieved:

#### Preparedness Measures

A broad educational program will be carried forward at the State, Federal and local levels designed to help the people understand the relative responsibilities of the Federal, State and local government for food as they will apply to the post-attack period.

State and local government will be responsible for the maintenance of inventories and for the control of the distribution of food supplies in the post-attack period, so as to ensure that the maximum amount of available food supplies is distributed to the population. State and local government will be responsible for the maintenance of home and other food stocks and for the distribution of food to the population which will be essential to the maintenance of the population.

Plans of USDA take into account the Federal and State responsibilities which the Department has as a part of the National Plan for Civil Defense and Emergency Mobilization.

USDA will proceed to clarify the emergency facilities with the intent that utilization can be made of the existing facilities for the production of food at State, county and community levels. Administration will be delegated to appropriate officials of the Federal Government to be in charge during emergency periods.

Ability to assess the effects of all emergency facilities and the program is being developed. To assist in this, a study of the production of all major food processing and distribution facilities is being conducted. It should also be noted that the program is being developed to provide for members of the public who will be unable to obtain food during an emergency.

The food program is a broad plan of action to be developed for the purpose of defense against biological and chemical warfare, for the production of food and crops, and defense against the effects of war.

#### Total Food Supplies Will be Adequate

Studies made by the USDA indicate that the total supply of food will be adequate immediately following any attack on the United States. The main problem will be the need for a distribution system to get the food to the people and as sure equitable distribution of the food.

This is a principal reason why a system of public stocks is being advocated.

It is recognized, however, that the total supply of food is not sufficient to supply that public stocks of food should be built up. The main problem is the buildup of food stocks not only in the United States but also in other States may be needed. It is also recognized that there are some food problems for some areas of the United States, particularly in the particularly vulnerable areas.

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#### Summary and Reference to Legislative Findings

In summary, it is clear that the system of public stocks is being developed

USDA, State and local government, farmers, food processors, distributors and the public all have a part to play in the immediate post-attack period.

It will be necessary for all concerned to ensure that the people's needs are to be accomplished successfully. This emergency will be possible only if adequate plans are in the works and if these plans are fully understood and ready to be put into effect in the event of an emergency.

Readiness to carry out the emergency food program is assured by the fact that the country is now well stocked with many commodities and by the fact that the USDA has a large staff of personnel already administering programs which can be adapted to an emergency with little delay.

Although major emphasis has been placed on food problems in the immediate post-attack period, the problem does not stop there. The processing and distribution of food for the longer range period necessitate the continued cooperation and best efforts of the State and local governments; the Federal Government is currently being developed to meet these needs.