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Letter from Taiwan, Republic of China

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which will have practical application to the local scene. At the last meeting, the problem of nutrition was discussed and a program of action adopted, consisting of a pilot experiment approved by the Peruvian Ministry of Health, under the auspices of Catholic Relief Service-Caritas del Peru, and in cooperation with two local commercial firms.

The project encompasses the distribution of noodles and cookies enriched with fish protein concentrate to pre-school children in 20 different places in Peru. This will afford the opportunity not only to provide much-needed feeding to many children at the critical age of weaning, but also to control and vary the effects of these foods, to stimulate their public acceptance, and thus develop a demand for them. Such a market, it is hoped, will in turn generate interest on the part of government and commercial and industrial agencies to mass produce them. The aim of the project is to meet one of the basic needs in these underdeveloped countries, namely, a cheap source of protein using an abundant cheap local raw material. Peru leads the world in fishing and currently uses less than 2% of its fish for human consumption.

By way of conclusion, these are some of the activities of the Conference in its first official year of operation. The next annual meeting will be held in Lima, Peru in October, 1964. As expressed by the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Romulo Carboni in his letter of approval for last year's convocation, it is hoped that future other groups of similar purpose will become a part of the Conference.

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Letter from Taiwan.

Republic of China

As this is the first letter from Taiwan, it may not be out of place to give some background data. Taiwan, a province of China, has the results accruing from efforts being made under a free Government in the fields of agricultural, industrial, and religious development. Historically, Taiwan belongs to China except for 38 years under the Dutch (1624-62) and 50 years under the Japanese (1895-1945). Taiwan, where the seat of Free French Government is located, is one of thirty-five provinces of China Proper. Together with 77 outlying islands with a total area of 35,000 sq. kms., Taiwan Proper (377 kms. long, 142 kms. wide) is situated between 22° 38' and 25° 38' N. Long., and 119° 50' and 122° E. Lat. and is about 1,191 nautical miles east of China Island and 479 n.m. from Hong Kong, 433 n.m. from Nagasaki, Japan, and 774 n.m. from Manila, Philippine Islands. Topographically, the central range of mountains, running the whole length of the island from north to south, divides it into northern sections, mountainous areas to the east occupying 70% of the land, leaving 30% (1 million hectares) of plains to the west, suitable for cultivation.

Population (1964) numbered 12,256,682 (including 200,000 aborigines of Protomalayan origin) of whom 52% were males, 54% under 20 and 25% over 64 years of age, with a crude birth rate of 36.27 per 1,000 and death rate of 6.13, the natural increase being about 3% per annum. The population has more than doubled since 1947 (6.5 million) and has a density of 330 per sq. km. Literacy rate is high—96.7% of school-age (6-12 years old) children were in school (1963). Major causes of death (1962) per 100,000 were: Pneumonia: 59; Vascular lesions of CNS: 59; Gastro-enterocolitis: 49; Neoplasms: 42; accident: 35; Tuberculosis — respiratory: 34; Heart diseases: 28; early infancy diseases and immaturity: 30; suicides and self-inflicted injuries: 18. Notable decrease is seen in deaths from Gastro-enterocolitis which constituted 14% of all deaths in 1952 was reduced to 8% in 1962, Tuberculosis, from 8% to 6% (285.2 in 1947 to 39.2 in 1962) due to improved sanitation and 15 years of BCG vaccination for negative Tuberculin tested reactors, case findings and free mass treatment domiciliary or hospital. On the other hand, deaths have increased significantly from CNS vascular lesions from 5 to 10%; and malignant neoplasms from 3 to 7% of deaths from all causes within the same decade. Heart diseases, excluding chronic rheumatism and arteriosclerosis and
degenerative conditions (unrecorded in 1952) were responsible for 28 deaths per 100,000 or 5% of all deaths in 1962.

Infectious diseases: There has been no plague since 1947; cholera since 1946 (small outbreak in 1962); smallpox since 1954; and only 34 cases of malaria in 1958; and only 34 cases of malaria in 1963 (over 1 million cases per annum from 1947-1952). Taiwan is the first country in the Far East certified by WHO in 1965 to be free from malaria.

To provide food for people, increasing at the rate of 3% p.a., and to increase per capita income and prosperity, the Chinese Government initiated popular education, land reform (land-to-the-Tiller), promoted industries, social welfare and health services. The results may be seen in the increase of national income increasing at the rate of 3% p.a., and from NT$13,047 million in 1952 to NT$66,512 or 112.2% (in terms of 1952 value) in 1963 towards which was the first country in the Far East to increase per capita income and from NT$13,047 million in 1952 to NT$1,505 in 1952 and NT$5,358 in 1963 (3% - the largest share. The per capita income was NT$1,505 in 1952 and NT$5,358 in 1963 (3% - the largest share. The per capita income was NT$1,505 in 1952 and NT$5,358 in 1963 (in terms of 1952 value) in 1963 towards which agricultural products (with surplus for exports) contributed 28.6% and industries and mining: 29.20%; and commerce, 15.3% - the largest share. The per capita income was NT$1,505 in 1952 and NT$5,358 in 1963 (in terms of 1952 value) or a 48.2% increase.

Health Services: Taiwan has one health department which administers and supervises the activities of 22 bureaus in 16 counties and 361 health stations in townships and 441 health rooms in villages. There are 17 provincial and 9 county hospitals in addition to 8 special clinics and hospitals with a total of 40 provincial, 51 county and 997 township, including 441 while units. The per capita income was NT$1,505 in 1952 and NT$5,358 in 1963 (in terms of 1952 value) or a 48.2% increase.

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