Public Law 99-122
99th Congress

# Joint Resolution

To designate October 16, 1985, as "World Food Day".

Oct. 16, 1985
[S.J. Res. 72]

Whereas hunger and chronic malnutrition remain daily facts of life for hundreds of millions of people throughout the world and famine is again afflicting so many of the countries of Africa;

Whereas the children of the world suffer the most serious effects of hunger and malnutrition, with millions of children dying each year from hunger-related illness and disease, and many others suffering permanent physical or mental impairment, including blindness, because of vitamin and protein deficiencies;

Whereas Congress is particularly concerned by the rise of hunger, recurring natural catastrophes, and inadequate food production and distribution now affecting a large number of African countries and the need for an appropriate United States response to emergency and long-term food needs of that continent;

Whereas there is growing recognition that improved agricultural policies, including farmer incentives, are necessary in many developing countries to increase food production and national economic growth;

Whereas there is a need to increase the involvement of the private voluntary and business sectors, working with governments and the international community, in the search for solutions to food and hunger problems;

Whereas although progress has been made in reducing the incidence of hunger and malnutrition in the United States, certain groups, notably Native Americans, migrant workers, the elderly, and children, remain vulnerable to malnutrition and related diseases;

Whereas national policies concerning food, farmland, and nutrition require continuing evaluation and should consider and strive for the well-being and protection of all residents of the United States and particularly those most at health risk;

Whereas there is widespread concern that the use and conservation of land and water resources required for food production throughout the United States ensure care for the national patrimony we bequeath to future generations;

Whereas the United States has always supported the principle that the health of a nation depends on a strong agriculture based on private enterprise and the primacy of the independent family farm;

Whereas the United States, as the world's largest producer and trader of food, has a key role to play in efforts to assist countries and people to improve their ability to feed themselves;

Whereas the United States has a long tradition of demonstrating its humanitarian concern for helping the hungry and malnourished;

Whereas efforts to resolve the world hunger problem are critical to the maintenance of world peace and therefore to the security of the United States;

AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

Whereas Congress is acutely aware of the paradox of immense farm surpluses and rising farm foreclosures in the United States despite the desperate need for food by hundreds of millions of people around the world;

Whereas a key recommendation contained in the 1980 report of the Presidential Commission on World Hunger is that efforts be undertaken to increase public awareness of the world hunger problem;

Whereas the member nations of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations designated October 16 of each year as World Food Day because of the need to alert the public to the increasingly dangerous world food situation;

Whereas the Food and Agriculture Organization was conceived at a conference in Hot Springs, Virginia, with a goal of freedom from hunger and 1985 marks the fortieth anniversary of the organization's existence;

Whereas past observances of World Food Day have been supported by proclamations of the fifty States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories and possessions of the United States, by resolutions of Congress, by Presidential proclamations, by programs of the United States Department of Agriculture and other Government departments and agencies, and by the governments and peoples of many other nations; and

Whereas more than three hundred and thirty private and voluntary organizations and many thousands of community leaders are participating in the planning of World Food Day observances for 1985: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That October 16, 1985, is hereby designated as "World Food Day", and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe that day with appropriate activities to explore ways in which our Nation can further contribute to the elimination of hunger in the world.

Approved October 16, 1985.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S.J. Res. 72:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 131 (1985):
Mar. 28, considered and passed Senate.
Oct. 9, considered and passed House.