

farm prices. In the event, there was little argument about the principle, and Butz's principle of "national stocks, internationally coordinated" went through with barely a challenge.

So strongly opposed were the grain producers to a stockpile that they even turned down the idea of a small emergency stockpile of 500,000 tons, stored near potential disaster areas to provide rapid relief. Canada said that such a stock would only add to costs for storage and turnover, and would not speed relief work. And the United States said that there was no reason to believe that the earmarking or prepositioning of stocks would help. So, although the conference did ask governments to earmark stocks for emergency use wherever possible, it is unlikely that this recommendation will have very much effect.

Research played a fairly insignificant part in the conference deliberations, despite the emphasis on it by both Kissinger and Butz. "We have not adjourned research, we have not adjourned innovation," declared Butz, but there were times when it did seem as if the conference had adjourned discussion of them.

It did, however, pass a lengthy resolution on the subject of food and agricultural research, which expressed concern at the inadequate amount of basic and applied research suited to the needs of developing countries; called for greater efforts, particularly in the exchange of technology, development of cooperative programs, study of weather and climate, improvement of fisheries and marine culture, and better extension and training; and (as such resolutions customarily do) called for increasing research spending in developing countries severalfold by 1985.

Another resolution, proposed by France, Malaysia, Senegal, and the United Kingdom calls for better soil protection and conservation techniques to be used in areas where erosion, salinity, and alkalinity are problems, and suggests the establishment of a World Soil Charter, to be used as a basis for making the most rational use of the world's land resources.

On fertilizers, the conference expressed anxiety at the international supply position and urged developed countries to cut back on nonessential uses—gardens, parks, and golf courses—in the interest of making more available for food production. The resolution also makes mention of the

need to improve the use of organic fertilizers, still largely neglected despite the estimate given in a preconference report that animal and human wastes in developing countries represent seven times the needed fertilizer inputs.

And, in a resolution which broke new ground, the conference called for a global information and early-warning system to be set up to provide information in advance of famines. The system would be run by FAO on the basis of information supplied by member governments and kept confidential. In the past, governments have resisted schemes of this sort because information on stock levels can have damaging commercial consequences, pushing up prices when stocks are already low. But this time most governments appear willing to let FAO have a go; even the Soviet Union, which has never joined FAO, expressed cautious support of the scheme.

On trade matters, the conference made little progress. The Group of 77, representing the Third World, made militant noises about remodeling the world's trade system to favor the poor, but on this occasion the rich were hardly disposed to discuss it. This was not the forum, most developed countries argued, for lengthy discussions of trade issues which were due to be discussed at GATT and UNCTAD meetings.* But a resolution did emerge which gave the developing countries some comfort: the developed countries agreed to reduce the barriers to world trade, to look for ways of extending tariff preferences to food products, and to try to solve world commodity problems.

In a year which has seen an unusual amount of international discussion, starting with the General Assembly session on the New Economic Order in the spring and going on to Bucharest and Rome, the results of the Food Conference were a good deal solidier than many pessimists expected. The mood of angry conflict between rich and poor showed a few signs of abating. It may not have transformed the prospects of the hungry peasant in Bangladesh or the Sahel—few conferences ever do that—but it has left grounds for hope.—NIGEL HAWKES

Mr. Hawkes is the science correspondent of the London Observer.

* General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade; and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

APPOINTMENTS

Kenneth C. W. Kammeyer, professor of sociology, University of Kansas, to chairman, sociology department, University of Maryland. . . . **Ruth F. Weiner**, chairman, physical sciences department, Florida International University, to dean, Huxley College of Environmental Studies, Western Washington State College. . . . **Joachim Bruhn**, dean for special projects, Richmond College, City University of New York, to dean, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, University of Michigan, Dearborn. . . . **Barbara Uehling**, academic dean, Roger Williams College, to dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Illinois State University. . . . **Beaumont Davison**, vice president for higher education, Ohio University, to dean, School of Engineering, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. . . . **James L. Gant**, director of teacher education systems, Florida State Board of Regents, to dean, College of Education, Florida State University. . . . **Dale W. Lick**, vice president for academic affairs, Russell Sage College, to dean, School of Sciences, Old Dominion University. . . . **I. Robert Ehrlich**, manager, transportation research group, Stevens Institute of Technology, to dean for research at the institute. . . . **Maurice Glicksman**, professor of engineering, Brown University, to dean, Graduate School at the university. . . . **Joseph E. Rowe**, chairman, electrical and computer engineering department, University of Michigan, to dean of engineering, Case Western Reserve University. . . . **Edward L. Dejnozka**, chairman of curriculum and instruction, Northern Arizona University, to dean, College of Education, University of Nebraska, Omaha. . . . **William B. Knowles, Jr.**, professor of psychology, California State University, Northridge, to dean, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the university. . . . **Julius S. Greenstein**, professor of biology, State University of New York College, Fredonia, to dean, School of Mathematics and Natural Science at the college. . . . **James W. Strobel**, chairman, ornamental horticulture department, University of Florida, to chairman, horticultural science department, North Carolina State University. . . . **Lazar J. Greenfield**, professor of surgery, University of Oklahoma, to chairman, surgery department, Medical College of Virginia.

(Continued on page 948)