

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

June 3, 1977

SECRETARY'S MEMORANDUM NO. 1920

World Food and Agricultural Outlook and Situation Board

Purpose. Since 1972 the world has been marked by a tighter supply of food and other agricultural commodities. Weather conditions and other factors that vary worldwide cause production to fluctuate widely. Under such conditions, market prices are highly sensitive to reports of changes in supply-demand estimates and production forecasts.

The Department of Agriculture has a comprehensive commodity data collection system. However, the data collection and release is divided among at least three agencies, and, therefore, inconsistency among the data is possible. Furthermore, the Department's data collection system has been criticized as combining data collection and program operation, raising questions that this might affect the perceived objectivity of the data. It is the purpose of this Memorandum to enhance the consistency and reliability of all such data disseminated by the Department.

Establishment of Board. There is hereby established the World Food and Agricultural Outlook and Situation Board (Board) under the general supervision of the Director of Economics, Policy Analysis and Budget to coordinate and review all crop and commodity data used to develop outlook and situation material within the Department of Agriculture. The Board will be headed by a Chairman who will be selected on the basis of integrity and experience in the analysis of data on agricultural commodities. The Director of Economics, Policy Analysis and Budget, under the direction of the Secretary, is authorized to designate employees of the Department who shall serve as members of the Board on a part-time basis, and to appoint such full-time staff personnel as he deems necessary to carry out the responsibilities assigned in this Memorandum.

Responsibilities of World Food and Agricultural Outlook and Situation Board. The Board shall assume all functions previously carried out by the Outlook and Situation Board. The Board shall oversee and clear for consistency of analytical

COMMITTEES (*Board World Food and Agricultural Outlook and Situation*)

assumptions and results all estimates and analyses which significantly relate to international and domestic commodity supply and demand, including such estimates and analyses prepared for public distribution by the Foreign Agricultural Service or by any other agency or office of the Department.

Transfer of Functions. There are transferred to the Board all of the functions of the Outlook and Situation Board. The Outlook and Situation Board is hereby abolished.

Incidental Transfers. The Assistant Secretary for Administration is authorized to approve such transfers of funds, records, property, space, and personnel as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Memorandum.

Termination. The delegations of authority made in this Memorandum shall remain in effect for ninety days or until such earlier time as they are published in the Federal Register.


Secretary of Agriculture