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Press Release FAO/869
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FAO ESTIMATES HUNGARY NEEDS 15,000 TONS
OF SEED FOR SPRING PLANTING

(The following was received here from FAO, Rome)

Hungary urgently needs a minimum of 15,000 tons of seed by early February for spring planting, the Food and Agriculture Organization announced today.

This requirement is based on a preliminary report by Dr. F.T. Wahlen, Director of FAO's Agriculture Division, as a result of an exploratory mission to Vienna in late December with Pierre Sinard, chief of the joint Agriculture Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and FAO.

Dr. Wahlen and Mr. Sinard are now with the joint UN/FAO Mission in Budapest to investigate Hungary's economic and relief needs.

FAO declared action is already being taken on the preliminary report, which outlined needs for spring wheat, barley, oats, potatoes and hybrid corn.

In order to determine what supplies may be available, Dr. J.G. Knoll, chief of FAO's Plant Production Branch, has left for Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland and Australia to make on-the-spot surveys.

Dr. Wahlen's preliminary report was prepared after consultation with International Red Cross officials in Geneva and a visit to Vienna. He later joined the UN/FAO Hungarian Relief Mission headed by Phillipe de Seynes, the UN Under-Secretary who is acting for Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold on UN relief to the Hungarian people. The joint mission arrived in Budapest on 4 January.

FAO's role in the joint mission is to provide advice and aid in estimating seed needs, help assess feed needed for livestock, to examine requirements for fertilizers and farm machinery, to advise on the condition of food processing plants, to assess food needs of the people from the nutritional and supply viewpoint, and to examine timber needs.

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