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PUBLIC LAW 480: LEGISLATIVE HISTORY,
OPERATIONS, AND EVALUATION

by

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INTRODUCTION

The depletion of the world agricultural surplus stocks in the early 1970's has caused people to raise questions concerning international food policies. Some of these questions concern the food aid program authorized by the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 (Public Law 480).

P.L. 480 is the largest single international food aid undertaking by the U.S. in terms of volume and dollar value of its shipments. It has been the subject of much controversy due to the wide range of interests represented and objectives outlined in its provisions, as well as actual results achieved.

The material reviewed in the first section of this study describes the legislative history of P.L. 480 and includes reasoning behind changes in the law. The second section presents the administrative organization and financial procedures followed in carrying out P.L. 480 programs. The final section reports on the impact of P.L. 480 on recipient nations as well as the U.S.

Study Objectives

The P.L. 480 program has served as a food aid program by which U.S. agricultural commodities are used to promote economic development in recipient countries. The P.L. 480 program has been changed considerably since its passage in order to meet that goal. As the P.L. 480 program is changed to meet these desired goals, U.S. agriculture, as well as recipient countries will be affected. Thus, the primary objective of this

study is to evaluate the impact of P.L. 480 on recipient countries and U.S. agriculture.

Other objectives of the study were:

- (1) To gain an understanding of the reasoning for the P.L. 480 program by reviewing the legislation leading up to the passage of P.L. 480 and subsequent legislation which has modified the law.
- (2) To understand the administrative organization and financial procedures used in meeting the objectives of P.L. 480.
- (3) To determine the impacts of P.L. 480 on recipient countries and the U.S.

Information for this report was gained through various studies, reports, and public documents that described the P.L. 480 program and its impact on the U.S. and recipient countries.