Report of Task Force 1
Food Composition and Nutrient Data Sources

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I. Establishment of topics:

Referring to the numbered list of topics and issues, numbers 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, and 4 were identified as most important; numbers 5, 6, 9 and 11 as lowest importance.

II. Discussion of Topics:

1. Food and nutrient information needed. Priorities.

The Task Force enclosed the guidelines for establishing priorities proposed for the USDA Human Nutrition Center as described in the handout. According to these guidelines, priorities for nutrients to be studied are:

1) Nutrients accepted or suspected to be related to health problems in the U.S.

2) Data will be acquired using only adequate methods. These were defined as

   a) Accurate and reproducible as determined by standard criteria

   b) Rapid or automated

   c, Low cost

3) Nutrients for which data are inadequate.

Priorities for foods are

1) Foods consumed with high frequency or amount

2) Foods in the "as eaten" form

3) Foods for which present data are inadequate Recognition was given to special cases or needs in which exceptions might be made.

2. Availability and usability of USDA Data Base II.
USDA Representatives agreed to making Data Base II available but the usability was questioned. Because DBII is a summary of identical qualifiers, subgeneric comparisons might be made but they would have doubtful meaning.

3. How to report values for nutrients which have low priority for analysis?
Foods likely to be very low in nutrients should be recorded as "zero" rather than "unknown". The probable (as opposed to possible) value should be adopted. Imputed values can be made by a committee of experts or by individual judgment but when no basis for decision is available the value could be described as unknown.

7. Conversion of Common measures; identification of common measure-weight equivalents.
Concensus was that there is a need to share information about values used but not necessary to adopt a single standard. Observed that values may be determined by particular purpose of individual excercise or operating group.

8. Non-nutrient substances.
Information on these substances pertain to special purpose applications. When added to a data base, they should be coded and handled as a nutrient.

10. Identification of brand name products by USDA.
There is no rule against brand names; except endorsement. Brand names will be used for breakfast cereals. However, some manufacturers have submitted data anonymously by code and the identity may be unknown.

12. Vitamin and mineral supplement data.
Users expressed need for data in evaluating nutrient intakes.

13. Use of nutrition labeling data.
Agreed that label claim data should not be included in the data base because of under-estimation inherent in labeling regulations. However, the laboratory analytical bases for calculating label values are highly desired.

4. Evaluation and comparison of data in nutrient data bases.
Agreed that this should be done to:

a) Verify equality of sample identification

b) Compare equivalence of quantity

5. Establishment of a common bibliography.
Agreed that source of data should be identified in uniform manner.

6. Establishment of common conventions.
(Topic left to one of other Task Forces)

9. Central collection of data from food industry.
Doubtful that arrangement would be accepted by industry or desired by users because information need varies with individual purpose.

11. Canadian -- American cooperation.
Cooperation would be welcome but opportunities unknown.