

CIDA provided about \$1.25 billion in aid. Of this, 48 per cent was for specific bilateral projects, while 41 per cent went to international multilateral institutions for projects in developing countries. Much of the balance went to nongovernmental organizations such as CUSO and OXFAM which provide assistance to Third World countries, and to fund the activities of the International Development Research Centre, an international body to promote research in developing countries.

Canada's policy is to focus on the basic needs of people in the poorest countries, particularly in rural areas, and on energy, agriculture and human resources. The Canadian government is pledged to reach an aid target of .5% of Canada's Gross National Product (GNP) by 1985 and to make strong efforts to reach .7% by the end of the decade. In accordance with the Plan of Action adopted by the UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris in September, 1981, Canada has agreed to allocate .15% of GNP for the Least Developed Countries.

Recent Developments

At the Ottawa Summit of July, 1981, government leaders of the seven major industrialized countries spent considerable time on North-South problems, as did the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Melbourne. The North-South Summit in Cancun, Mexico in October, 1981 increased the involvement of world leaders. In Canada's view, that meeting was, overall, a success. Under the co-chairmanship of Prime Minister Trudeau and Mexican President Lopez Portillo, leaders of 22 developing and developed nations held informal and constructive discussions. Despite divergent philosophies and interests, a spirit of trust and confidence enabled them to agree on priorities for future co-operation, including food and agriculture. Finally, they reaffirmed their commitment to try to launch Global Negotiations on a mutually agreed basis at the UN, where efforts to reach a consensus will continue. At the 1982 Versailles Summit, the industrialized countries renewed their commitment to increased co-operation with developing countries.

North-South issues will not be resolved at any single conference no matter how great the goodwill, and the North-South dialogue will continue to evolve for many years.