

face serious debt servicing problems in the future. Some already have. With an increasing emphasis being placed in the Canadian programme on the special needs and problems of the least developed countries, we feel it is important to maintain the soft terms for the major part of our programme, while at the same time extending some of our loans on slightly harder terms to countries which are better able to bear the burden of debt servicing.

We have been called upon to help alleviate the effects of natural disasters and political crises: in the Indian subcontinent where our relief and reconstruction efforts continue; in Nicaragua, where Canada is helping to rebuild the shattered city of Managua; in Zambia where Canada responded to Zambia's needs in the wake of the Rhodesia border closure by providing an \$8 million loan to Zambia, Tanzania and the East African Community to help develop alternative routes for Zambian imports and exports, and by speeding up shipment of forty rail tank cars, and cargo handling equipment being provided under CIDA's regular programme.

In 1972/73 we continued to channel approximately 25% of our disbursements through multilateral channels, as the Foreign Policy Review recommended. Our recent membership in the Inter-American Development Bank is one indication of our growing support for multilateral institutions. We also maintained our support of other regional institutions and agencies; the list on pp 72-73 of the Estimates gives some indication of the variety of organizations with which we are involved.