

Canada recognizes the gravity of this situation. After more than doubling our bilateral aid programme last year, we are increasing it again this year. As our Prime Minister said recently, the Canadian Government intends to increase its foreign aid allocation substantially in the years ahead. In the General Debate in plenary session on September 24, the Secretary of State for External Affairs said "I want to affirm our strong support for the amalgamation of the Special Fund and Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance on satisfactory terms in a co-ordinated United Nations Development Programme, and for the continuance of the World Food Programme. Canada wants to see the projected new targets for these programmes adopted. I would expect that our own contribution will be in keeping with these United Nations objectives."

We intend to support sound innovations and will join with others in imaginative projects to accelerate economic progress. In Asia, where it is imperative that constructive activity should not be displaced by violence and disruption, we expect to join the Asian Development Bank to make a contribution of up to 25 million dollars to its subscription capital, providing a satisfactory Charter can be worked out and subject to Parliamentary approval. From the beginning, Canada has played an active role in the programme of developing and controlling the great Mekong River system, which affects a large part of Southeast Asia, and we expect to participate in specific projects now being undertaken under this programme.

In the Western hemisphere we have increased the funds available under our special arrangements with the Inter-American Development Bank. Earlier this year we made available for lending in Latin America a total of 25 million dollars; the Secretary of State announced in the General Debate that an additional 10 million dollars will be put at the disposal of the Bank for lending at terms which may extend up to fifty years at no interest charge.

Of course, economic assistance alone is not enough. Canada recognizes that the expansion of trade is also a crucial factor in economic development. We have supported and will continue to support efforts in United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in the Gatt, in the context of the Kennedy Round of tariff and trade negotiations in commodity conferences and elsewhere, to provide increased opportunities for the trade of developing countries. We attach particular importance to the establishment of the new UNCTAD machinery. We believe it can and must be made into an