

veloping countries has been negative, to say the least, and this trend has only been reinforced in Rome. Time and again, Canada has been in the forefront of those countries regularly turning down the requests, suggestions, demands and pleas of the Third World. This history leads me to believe that we need to have a total reappraisal of our position in GATT, which has been truly labelled a rich man's club. Let us stop using diplomatic tricks to sideline the Third World's legitimate aspirations to better trade deals.

Could we not heed the words of President Echeverria of Mexico, who sums up the food crisis by saying:

... in the final analysis, this situation has been determined and brought about by the inability of the great industrial nations to submit their production model to a system of international solidarity and shared development and interdependence based on equity and justice.

Since the food conference opened in Rome I have received 71 letters from people urging strong Canadian action. These are more letters than I have received on any other single subject, with the exception of capital punishment and abortion. I know that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has also received a very heavy volume of letters.

Canadians care about this issue. They want a government that will face up to this global calamity with courage, conviction and action, not just words.

I am happy to see the minister present in the House. He knows of the great respect I have for him. I wish him great success in his important portfolio. He knows that I will not oppose any initiatives he may take in this field, and I encourage him to take greater initiatives in the field of international development.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member referred to the performance of the Canadian government at the World Food Conference at Rome. It is unfortunate that he

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and other members should fail to recognize the substantial contribution which Canada made to the success of the World Food Conference. It does not help Canada or the hungry of the world to misrepresent and undermine the solid commitment which was made at that conference. It is unfortunate that we must look to persons outside Canada if we are to recognize what was actually contributed at that conference.

We were asked to respond to precise proposals that had been put before the conference by the secretary general of that conference, who was appointed by the United Nations. In making our food commitment for a three-year period commencing next year, we were responding to the precise request of the secretariat.

If other member nations at the World Food Conference had responded in like amounts, either in cash or in quantity, I can say with certainty that the concern expressed tonight by the hon. member about the hungry of this world would be less soundly based.

Canada can hold up its head with respect to its performance at the World Food Conference and its commitment. I hope the hon. member will recognize that.

The hon. member talked about the \$50 million. We did commit for this year an additional sum of \$50 million for development. In making that commitment we had in mind that there might be projects or possibilities opened up at the conference to which this \$50 million could be allocated. However, these possibilities did not open up. We are presently engaged in determining the places best suited for the allocation of this additional \$50 million.

The commitment will be lived up to and the decisions will be announced very early. I can assure the hon. member that he has no reason to doubt the sincerity of the government in making that commitment, of which the precise terms will be made public at, I hope, an early date.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10:20 p.m.