

A Good Beginning

I think that we in Canada have made a good beginning in this regard. For more than a decade now Canada has participated in overseas development programmes with the Colombo Plan, of which we are one of the founding members. By next year Canada will have contributed nearly half a billion dollars to overseas-development projects under the Colombo Plan.

We have also made substantial contributions to various United Nations development schemes. Last fall, we doubled our grant from \$2.5 million to \$5 million to the United Nations Special Fund.

Last November we substantially increased the amount of foreign assistance which we will be giving this year. We would be failing in our duty if we did not continue this endeavour.

Apart from the direct governmental participation in overseas development, a great many private and voluntary organizations in Canada are already playing important roles in international service. Organizations like the YMCA, the Salvation Army, the Red Cross, the Save the Children Fund, African Students Foundation, the Canadian Universities Service Overseas, the Overseas Institute, the Canadian Catholic Conference, and a host of other organizations both private and public, both large and small, are all deeply involved in international service. A great many church groups and missionaries have also made substantial contributions in Latin America and throughout Africa and other parts of the world.

But a great deal remains ahead of us. This is an immense and staggering task. The vastness of the problem is almost terrifying.

Support by Canadians Essential

As we proceed forward, nothing is of more importance for Canada's role in international development than the creation within Canada of public support for international development.

I believe that one of the major requirements in our society today is to have an even greater sense of involvement on the part of all Canadians in this great adventure of international development which is taking place in our time.

Let me emphasize two important points to you. First, this subject is not something to which only governments contribute, although the Government is making a substantial effort. This is a concern of all Canadians, and there is a part to play for Canadians in many walks of life.

I envisage an active partnership between government and voluntary organizations and private individuals, all fulfilling important and complementary roles.