

4.4 Activities of CIDA and EDC in South Korea

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) have not been very active recently in South Korea primarily because of the promising economic picture of the country. There are however a number of small projects underway.

CIDA has been, and is currently involved in, two projects aimed at providing funds and technical support to the weak and insolvent credit unions in two provinces (Kang Won and Chon Nam) of Korea. It is anticipated that two field workers will be hired and that 20 credit unions will be established each with assets below 200 million won. It is further expected that the assets will grow by 15 per cent by June 1987. CIDA contributions to date total Cdn \$92,000. In addition, to the Credit Union project, CIDA is involved in three other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) projects.

St. Michael's Hostel serves young women from the countryside living in an urban area for the first time, working in factories in the Musan area. The hostel provides decent housing, education and community life for women. At night the women study at the middle and high school level. The aim of the hostel is to upgrade the women's skills to do less exploitive work. The specific project is to build a combined dining/study room extension. The total value of the project is Cdn \$7,883. It was approved in 1985 and CIDA's contribution of Cdn \$5,250. was paid in fiscal year 1985/86. The second Canadian contributor to this project was the Anglican Church of Canada.

A project aimed at water and rural irrigation was approved in December 1983. The objectives were to train farmers in the skill of detecting water resources, to purchase pumps and pipelines, to organize the structure and team to expand the work, to operate the irrigation supply team and to make funding requests for "seed money" for further projects. The project was valued at Cdn \$148,335 with CIDA's contribution being Cdn \$46,080. The final portion of Cdn \$2,380 was paid in fiscal year 1986/87.

Other contributors included the Presbyterian Church of Canada and the Alberta Government.

The St. Peter's School Vocational Equipment project was approved in February 1985. The main outlay of this Cdn \$20,145 project will go for a kiln. CIDA's total contribution will be Cdn \$3,566 with the final portion due for payment in FY 1987/88. St. Peter's school has developed a program of vocational training for the mentally retarded. The aim is to train students for employment, enhance their ability to look after themselves on a day-to-day basis and become economically productive by selling the goods they produce, so the program becomes self-supporting and ongoing.