

*Domestic influence
reflected
in aid policy*

Plan, an organization which was attractive to English-speaking Canada. But, as *francophone* influence within Canada grew, so too did the development-assistance budget for *francophone* countries. At the moments of greatest strain between Ottawa and Quebec came the greatest percentage budgetary leaps in the *francophone* African assistance program. Within ten years, the *francophone* assistance program jumped from non-existence to a level where it was in *per capita* terms second only to the Caribbean program (though a distant second), four times as great as the Asian program and 50 percent higher than the Commonwealth African program in budgetary allocations. Even in aggregate terms, it is second only to the Asian program in both allocations and disbursements. It is clear that the growth of assistance to *francophone* Africa is the most outstanding feature of Canadian development policy in the past decade.

A look at some trends in the growth of Canadian official development assistance from 1960-1972 illustrates fairly clearly the development of Canadian international assistance policies through three governments. Aid allocations in the aggregate and as a percentage of GNP declined rapidly during the last three years of the Diefenbaker Government, years characterized by incipient recession and wide unemployment. The doubling of the aid allocations in the first year of the new Pearson Government, and again in the 1965-66 period, reflect Mr. Pearson's concern over

the problems of international development. Although there was a drop in aid allocations during the first year of the Trudeau Government, allocations were up substantially in 1973 over the last year of the Pearson Government; but it does appear that the pattern of rapid percentage growth in aid budgets has ended.

With the rapid increase in Canadian aid budgets over the past decade has gone a corresponding decrease in the average for Development Assistance Committee members as a group, so Canada's record has improved in both absolute and relative terms. ODA has, in fact, grown roughly twice as fast as the total Canadian budget in recent years, increasing by more than 40 per cent in 1969-70 alone.

While Canada has not been able to bring its ODA up to the .7 per cent of GNP by the initial target date of 1975 set by the UN, it has already reached the recommended levels for aid to be channelled through multilateral agencies. The quality of Canadian aid, too, compares favourably with that of other DAC members, though there remains room for improvement in the extent of tied Canadian aid.

Canada's aid record has improved dramatically, particularly within the past 15 years. With recent public opinion polls showing surprisingly strong support among the Canadian population for increased aid, there is no reason the record should not show further improvement in the future.

Book review

From hatred to confederation

By Richard Gwyn

Documents on relations between Canada and Newfoundland. Volume I, 1935-1949. Edited by Paul Bridle. Ottawa, Information Canada, 1974.

No human means exist to review a book — "tome" is a better word — of 1,446 pages (not counting a 74-page introduction) of government memoranda, reports, telegrams, official letters and minutes of com-

mittee meetings, most of which are couched either in the you-won't-catch-me-sticking-my-neck-out tone of "This note is merely an attempt to list as a basis for discussion some of..." or the impersonal, don't-blame-me-it's-the-system tone of "With reference to your S400-10 and S400-12 of 12 Dec. I am directed to inform you...".

Yet, and this was the first surprise this tome is alive. A Newfoundland friend stayed at our house recently, found my