

conference to concern itself comprehensively with the problem of under-development which affects two-thirds of the world's population. It enabled us jointly to take stock of the magnitude of the problem. It brought about a substantial measure of identification of the interests of developing countries as a group. Indeed, the coalescence of the 75 developing countries within the larger community of interest, which includes us all, was perhaps the most significant single feature of the Geneva Conference. I think it is fair to say that the Conference enabled us to arrive at a much better understanding of the broad lines along which domestic and international effort must henceforth be directed. It also produced broadly agreed recommendations on a number of important questions, especially those relating to development planning in a framework of international support.

Inevitably, the Conference did not go as far as many would have wished it to go. But I think we would be wrong to judge the Conference in terms only of its short-term results. World public opinion is now seized of the problem of under-development as never before. We can also now look forward to the establishment of an institutional framework within which the work that was begun at Geneva can be carried forward in depth. For my part, I look upon the Conference as a turning point in history. It has set in train developments which, I am sure, will not be reversed and which are bound to make a lasting imprint on the whole pattern of international economic relations.

The Canadian Government is prepared to play its full part in the great co-operative effort that will be required if the developing countries are to be brought to the threshold of self-sustaining economic growth. We are expanding and broadening our programmes of economic assistance. We were able, at the Geneva Conference, to announce a 50 percent increase in the volume of Canadian assistance during the current year. Only last Friday, on behalf of the Government of Canada, I signed an agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank under which we have agreed to make loans on very favourable terms to Latin-American countries for programmes designed to accelerate their economic, technical and educational development. I mention this agreement because it provides for the first concerted programme of Canadian assistance to our neighbours and friends in Latin America and thus an extension of the area in which Canada has carried out such programmes in the past.

I would also wish to say a word about the World Food Programme of the United Nations. We regard this programme as contributing significantly to economic development, and look forward to its renewal in 1965. The present contributions to this programme have been either used up or committed. In these circumstances, the Canadian Government has decided to make a further contribution of \$2 million, to be added to the \$5.4 million of our original pledge.

The United Nations itself is on the point of consolidating its own development assistance by merging the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. The Canadian Government supports the considerations which have prompted this move. We attach importance to the new combined programme carrying forward the same sound policies which have characterized the operation of the present programmes and commanding the same confidence and support.