

declarations of many delegations here in support of according a high priority to food and agricultural questions, public investment in agriculture in many developing countries continues to fall far behind the importance, whether measured in terms of Gross National Product or employment, which agriculture plays in the economic and social life of those countries. In not a few developing countries, declining or stagnating agricultural production is more a function of political choice than of climatic or other natural circumstances.

One constraint on food and agricultural development has undoubtedly been the inadequacy of national food management and planning capability. In its report, the World Food Council placed particular emphasis on the use of national food sector strategies which it regarded as "a promising instrument for food deficit countries". Canada believes strongly that such long term national food strategies can play a key role in mobilizing increased energies and resources, both from developed countries, but more especially, from within developing countries, toward more self-reliant policies in favour of food and agricultural development.

We are confident that such strategies, by assuring resources are directed towards well-planned and effective projects, will increase political support in developed countries for the transfer of additional resources to assist in meeting these objectives. Canada was, therefore, pleased to announce at the Ottawa meeting that we are setting aside a special fund of \$2 million to assist developing countries to prepare long term national food strategies for the 1980s. We are hopeful that other countries will be able to join Canada in making available funds for this purpose.

Both the World Food Council and the Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development stressed the need for more direct action by governments to overcome malnutrition and achieve greater equity in food distribution, and to ensure that increased production of food reaches the hungry and malnourished poor. At the Rome Conference in July, it was President Nyerere of Tanzania who outlined five essential conditions for rural development in Third World countries, regardless of the differences in their systems. He stressed that creating these conditions always takes strong political will and is never painless. "In practically all developing countries," he said, "these things require a revolution in the present patterns of government expenditure and of taxation."

As we prepare together an international development strategy for the 1980s, it is inescapable that these internal changes will be as essential a part of the bargain as will structural changes at the international level. The record of