

### Food and agricultural development

For many developing countries, dynamic expansion of productivity in the agricultural sector is a priority. Stagnation of agricultural production has seriously hindered the economic and social development of these countries. As a large producer and exporter of foodstuffs, Canada has been in the vanguard of efforts aimed at improving the world food situation. These efforts will be given a new impetus at the fifth session of the World Food Council which Canada will have the honour of hosting next year.

### Development of energy resources

The essential role energy has played in the last few years in all national economies has directed attention to the advantages the developing countries could derive from a more rapid development of their own energy resources. More rational use of these resources would have the effect of reducing imports and would immediately make it possible for numerous developing countries to save on currency. It becomes clearer each day that closer international co-operation is necessary in order to facilitate research, exploration and exploitation of conventional and unconventional energy resources. At a recent meeting of the Joint Development Committee of the International Monetary Fund and of the World Bank, Canada took some initiatives in order to bring further progress in this important area. Canada is also in favour of the holding of a United Nations conference on new and renewable energy sources. Emphasis should be placed on energy techniques susceptible of practical and rapid application in the developing countries.

### New international development strategy

Formulation of a new international development strategy is of prime importance in that it defines the framework within which the international community makes its co-operation efforts. The goal is to set down acceptable objectives in connection with finding solutions to development problems. Canada recommends a different approach from that adopted in the previous decades. We must ask ourselves what policy and strategy changes could have the best results worldwide. There may be advantages in adopting a more long-term perspective that could be modified according to the economic situation as well as to technical and social innovations.

There is need to concentrate on development of sectors such as agriculture, raw materials, energy resources and essential services. The strategy should take into consideration the environment and the capacity for continual expansion of resource transfers, as well as the limits and constraints that must be put on such transfers. Further, we must make sure that the strategy is written in such a way as to obtain the support of public opinion. Such support in all countries is necessary so that governments can allocate the resources and bring about the policy changes required for carrying out the strategy.

## **2. UN ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

**Ambassador Roger Rousseau spoke to the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee of the General Assembly on November 14, 1978. As a major**