

United Nations that Canada would reverse the downward trend of the late 1970s, reach an ODA/GNP [Official Development Assistance/Gross National Product] ratio of .5 per cent by the middle of the 1980s, and make best efforts to meet the .7 per cent target by the end of the decade.

While building up the volume of our program, we are also trying to upgrade its content and sharpen its focus. We are pursuing what might be called the cultural model of development — the idea that development consists of a people, making their own culture and lifestyle, making the adaptations necessary to live self-reliantly and in harmony with their environment.

We are concentrating on three sectors that we consider crucial: agriculture and food self-sufficiency; energy, including new and renewable forms; and human resources development, especially in such areas as management and technical skills.

We have also gone beyond the usual bilateral and multilateral framework by creating a number of special programs to involve virtually all elements of Canada's private sector, from churches and volunteer groups to universities, professional associations and private companies.

I believe that development co-operation should have a rather special place in our priorities as liberals — because each time an Asian slum-dweller masters a productive skill, each time an African mother gains access to clean water for her family, each time a Latin American child learns to read, another blow is struck against oppression and for human liberation.

**North-South  
prospects**

In closing, I would like to take a quick look ahead at what I see as the prospects for North-South relations in the rest of our century. Partly because of rapid economic growth in the 1950s and 1960s, some real progress was made in the Third World: life expectancy rose from about 42 years to 55 in a quarter-century, while primary school enrolment doubled worldwide between 1960 and 1975. That kind of unprecedented progress will be very difficult to achieve in the 1980s and 1990s.

We face constraints of many kinds. The developing countries must cope with crushing debt, acute balance-of-payments pressure, and painful adjustment programs. Ominously, the *per capita* real income of the Third World as a whole is declining in absolute terms for the first time since the late 1950s, with all that this implies in human suffering.

Meanwhile, in the developed countries, economic anxiety prevails, funds for development co-operation are in decline, and cynicism is growing about our ability to respond on the domestic or international scene.

Can we learn from the past? Paradoxically, I believe that today's difficulties bear the

---