

3. In addition to its own extensive testimony (an index to which is appended to this report) the Subcommittee took account of a number of parallel reassessments being undertaken elsewhere. These included: the Pearson Commission Report (published in September 1969); the Jackson Report on the United Nations Development System (September, 1969); the Peterson Report on U.S. Foreign Assistance in the 1970's (March, 1970); the Prebisch Report on Change and Development in Latin America (July, 1970); and the adoption of the U.N. International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade (to go into effect on 1 January 1971). The mere listing of the titles gives an indication of the breadth and intensity of the global reassessment. Since the Subcommittee's mandate was primarily concerned with the Canadian paper on international development, it was neither possible nor desirable to engage in an intensive study of any of these other documents. They were, however, referred to in testimony and did form a very useful background for the Subcommittee's more specific study. Also available for reference were the special background studies commissioned by the Canadian Government for the aid policy review, and tabled in the House on 13 January, 1970.

4. The Subcommittee, from the outset, adopted a very broad approach to its study of "Canadian international development assistance policy." The hearings were organized so as to provide exposure to the viewpoints of developing countries themselves, multilateral organizations, non-official agencies and corporations, as well as official Canadian views and those of academic specialists. The scope of the inquiry was also comprehensive in another important sense, namely that it was actively concerned with all aspects of Canadian relationships, both official and unofficial or non-governmental with developing countries. (A list of witnesses is attached as Appendix "A")

I. THE CANADIAN INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.

a. The Rationale for Canadian Involvement—

"Concern with the needs of other and poorer nations is the expression of a new and fundamental aspect of the modern age—the awareness that we live in a village world, that we belong to a world community.

It is this which makes the desire to help into more than a moral impulse felt by an individual; makes it into a political and social imperative for governments..." (p. 8)

5. The Pearson Commission presents this as the paramount argument for development assistance in the contemporary world. This basic rationale is echoed by the Government's policy paper. In its discussion of "why the eradication of poverty in developing countries should be given priority by Canada" the primary emphasis is given to a concern for "international social justice". This concern, it is stressed, is a natural outgrowth of basic values

subscribed to by the Canadian people. It is a simple extension abroad of the standards of social justice aspired to by Canadians for their own society. This extension is logical (and probably inevitable) because, although it is not always sufficiently recognized, "In many respects, Canada is one of the most international of nations."

6. The Subcommittee fully accepts this basic rationale for international cooperation for development. Clearly there is no longer a need for apologetic or defensive arguments for development assistance in this country—it has become an established fact of contemporary international and Canadian life. To say this is not, however, to counsel complacency. Too often an active concern for development assistance can slip into a passive acquiescence in ongoing programmes at a static level. This problem may now be particularly acute because development cooperation has come to involve mainly government-to-government relationships which seem, to many of the public, remote and somewhat sterile. The maintenance of active concern and informed involvement is therefore a vital challenge and it is the focus of the next section of this report.

7. It must be recognized that Canada is still, in many respects, a developing country with its own less-developed regions.* An understandable feeling of urgency about meeting these domestic needs has on occasion led some Canadians to question or oppose the role of development assistance abroad. The Subcommittee wishes to stress that it is acutely conscious of the gravity of these needs at home, while emphasizing just as strongly that it sees no conflict between the two objectives.

8. On the contrary, the two goals are totally intertwined and spring from the same motivation. As the Policy Paper aptly puts it:

"A society able to ignore poverty abroad will find it much easier to ignore poverty at home; a society concerned about poverty and development abroad will be concerned about poverty and development at home. We could not create a truly just society within Canada if we were not prepared to play our part in the creation of a more just world society. Thus our foreign policy in this field becomes a continuation of our domestic policy." (p. 9)

* At this stage of the Report it may be useful to quote from the Pearson Report about the use of terms in this field:

"Words like "rich" and "poor", "advanced" and "backward", "highly developed" and "underdeveloped", even "donor" and "recipient" are unsatisfactory as they may be misinterpreted. There is far more to development than economic and material progress, and gross national product is no assurance of the possession of other values and qualities.

"The words that have become most common are "developed" and "developing" and they are the ones which have generally been used in this Report even though the Commission is very much aware that all countries are, or should be, "developing", and no country is fully "developed". (p. ix)