

be restrained and what is to be done for the hundreds of thousands of people in this region who have lost their formerly habitable lands?

No one is quite sure of the answers. What is clear is that it will take time, organized effort and money to halt and then roll back the blight of drought. For this reason, the Government of Canada has elaborated a five-year programme to help in the rehabilitation of the Sahelian region, involving total expenditure over a five-year period of \$230 million.

Earlier this year two other contributions were made. The sum of \$400,000 to FAO, which is co-ordinating emergency relief to the drought and famine stricken region in Africa and \$400,000 for UNICEF's special programme of relief in the same region.

UNICEF's emergency work consists of digging in the Sahelian region. There is some subterranean water in the area that can be readily tapped, given the sort of expertise UNICEF has acquired over the years in this very field. Not only will these wells give relief to the inhabitants and their herds, but they will have an important sociological impact in helping to anchor the nomadic populations and thus enable their governments to bring them to schooling, trading and the good habits of a more than surface and subsistence agriculture.

I congratulate UNICEF on this sort of thoughtful and understanding planning. UNICEF is very wise in not relying entirely on official contributions from governments for the financing of its activities. In the first place, you can be more independent if you raise a good share of your own funds.

In the second place, public support in the form of cold hard cash encourages government support. The UNICEF Committee Specific Purposes Fund brings matching contributions from government sources, sometimes at a substantial ratio. Furthermore, public support has led successive governments continually to increase the regular Canadian contribution to UNICEF. The figure for the regular governmental contribution only has risen from \$1,112,000 in 1969 to \$2,500,000 in 1974. I expect to be able to pledge a further increase for 1975 at the November pledging conference.

In conclusion, I would like to leave this thought with you: the food situation in the world has never been more serious. Governments are beginning to tackle the global co-operative tasks that are required. But governments cannot do the job without the whole-hearted support of concerned citizens.

You of the Canada UNICEF Committee with your understanding of the tremendous requirements, have a special responsibility to rally support for Canada's part in this vital world-wide process.

I am not talking to you about charity or neighbourliness: I am talking about survival.