

Chapter II

THE GOVERNMENT'S DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

Objectives

If the elimination of widespread endemic poverty is to be the ultimate result, then the objective of a development assistance programme must be to support and foster the growth and evolution of the social, educational, industrial, commercial and administrative systems of the developing countries in such a way that their people can improve their own organization and capacity to produce, distribute and consume goods and services, and thereby improve the quality of life in their countries. For brevity, this process may be called economic and social development.

The Government regards the economic and social development of the developing countries as the primary objective of the Canadian development assistance programme. Development assistance thus will be an important and integral programme toward achieving the basic Canadian aims to improve the quality of life and social justice within the total domestic and foreign environment in which Canadians will have to live and work in the remaining decades of this century. Toward this objective, all allocations and commitments of development assistance funds should be measured chiefly against criteria relating to the improvement of economic and social conditions in the recipient countries.

This objective does not lessen the necessity of relating the development assistance programme to other Canadian national objectives. It must be not only relevant but sensitive to them. It will be clear, for instance, that development assistance will tend to be concentrated in countries whose governments pursue external and internal policies that are broadly consistent with Canadian values and attitudes. The Government believes that the development objectives can complement and reinforce other Canadian objectives in the developing countries. A well-designed and