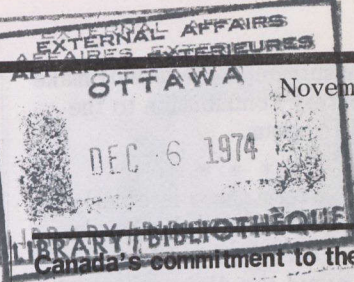


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Canada's commitment to the solution of the world food problem

"The spectacle of 200 million malnourished children, and of nursing mothers suffering on a similar scale, makes a mockery of the ideals professed by every society. The malnourished children of today must somehow be enabled to become the wellsprings of tomorrow's prosperity....Canada intends to play its full part in this effort," declared Secretary of State Allan J. MacEachen in an address to the World Food Conference in Rome on November 6.

On behalf of Canada, Mr. McEachen pledged to the World Food Program immediate assistance of \$50 million and 1 million tons of foodgrains annually for the next three years. Passages from his address follow:

...Canada emphatically supports the development of increased food-production capacity by developing countries as the key to an anti-hunger strategy. Where opportunities for efficient food production exist my Government stands ready to accord it a high priority in our assistance programs. Canada has always been responsive to requests for assistance in this area. We are now carefully re-examining the skills and resources that may exist in Canada suitable for assisting the development of new agricultural and fisheries capacity in developing countries to determine practical ways of making them readily available. We therefore intend to have a matching response for countries who set about energetically to mobilize their internal food-production resources and who give a high-development priority to efficient food production.

Producing more food not easy
We know from experience that expanding food production on a secure basis is not easy. It demands adaptation of land and water, technology, research, finance, modernized storage and transport facilities, marketing organizations, planning, and government services — all of which may require changes to traditional modes of life. Increased production is also facing barriers arising from supply shortages of certain inputs, notably nitrogenous fertilizers. No *deus ex machina* will remove these impediments overnight, and each country must come to terms with them in its own way. Where Canada can help to make these problems more manageable it will, and

it will strive to see access to inputs maintained internationally on an equitable non-discriminatory basis.

The situation of the "vulnerable groups" in food-deprived areas is a reproach to us all. The spectacle of 200 million malnourished children, and of nursing mothers suffering on a similar scale, makes a mockery of the ideals professed by every society. The malnourished children of today must somehow be enabled to become the wellsprings of tomorrow's prosperity. This Conference should determine upon effective ways for directing a greater volume of food to these groups and make them priority recipients under international food-assistance programs. UNICEF and the World Food Program, not to mention the voluntary organizations who form so much of the vanguard in this struggle, must be given the resources to develop programs to this end which are truly effective. Canada intends to play its full part in this effort.

Obligations of food donors

We cannot ignore the fact that in the immediate future there will be a substantially increased demand for food imports in a number of countries that cannot pay for it. The food-aid programs of many donor countries have hitherto been facilitated by the existence of "surplus stocks", which are now non-existent. Food aid is consequently falling off just when it is needed most. Yet the people fed by "surplus stocks" cannot be counted "surplus people", and their needs cannot be written off. Canada has seen its commitment to these programs as a