

I find the argument that by providing peaceful assistance to needy people we indirectly release funds for violent objectives not entirely without substance, but on the whole rather specious and really an excuse for doing nothing. By this logic every time we help starving people in one or another region of the world, we make it possible for the government in these countries to increase their military budget.

The Government does not support violence to solve the current conflicts in Southern Africa. However, I trust that all Members of Parliament are concerned about the flagrant injustices in Southern Africa. We must do something more to demonstrate our support for the millions of people in Southern Africa who are denied the right to choose their own future in a free and open society. Peaceful humanitarian aid is one tangible method of demonstrating where we stand on the issues of racist and colonialist injustices.

The Committee will, I hope, provide an opportunity for those, like church groups, who are providing humanitarian aid -- and who will be seeking supplementary funds from the Government out of the estimates now before you -- to appear and describe their work.

Canada and the world
community

I have mentioned the global implications of the oil and food shortages and the implications for trade and aid policies. I have spoken of the diversification of our international relations. But underlying our view of the problems facing Canada and the relationships we are developing must be a constantly updated appreciation of what we are, in terms of our geography, our physical assets and our place, morally and intellectually, in the world community.

Canada is, of course, a Western industrialized country. Without close co-operation between such countries, there is little hope of developing just and orderly procedures for the more equitable sharing of the world's wealth, particularly those resources in short supply, and for the control of inflation. Disarray in the West could have short-term or windfall benefits for some Third World countries, but in the long run the consequences would be wasteful, disruptive and dangerous for all countries.

Canada is also a developing country but, unlike most Western or industrialized countries, a major producer of resources. In this sense Canada has many interests in common with other producers, including stable markets, a reasonable price structure, and a growing capacity to subordinate international business decisions