

around 2 percent. Other significant contributors are Australia, Sweden and Norway. All the nations of Eastern Europe, excluding the USSR, together contribute less than Norway.<sup>8</sup>

The contributing nations do not necessarily contribute on a most-able-to-pay basis. Norway contributes most, 1.2 percent of its Gross National Product. West Germany, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands and France all spend between one-half and one percent of their GNP on development assistance. Canada, Australia and Belgium contribute about 0.4 percent of their GNP, Great Britain 0.3 percent, Japan 0.28 percent, the United States 0.23 percent and the USSR 0.13 percent. As a percentage of GNP, Canada makes half the contribution of the West Germans, Dutch and Scandinavians. The Americans contribute half as much as Canadians, and the Soviets half as much as the Americans.

Canada's contribution to development assistance rose steadily from less than 0.1 percent of GNP in the early 1950s to more than 0.5 percent in 1976. Since then, as a percent of GNP, Canada's contribution to development has continued to fall.<sup>9</sup> In the 1989-90 budget there was a \$1.8 billion cut to development assistance over five years, starting with a \$335 million cut in 1989-90. For the coming year the portion of Canada's GNP going to development assistance will be 0.43 percent.<sup>10</sup>

As the 1980s draw to a close there has been no effective response to the "bad-to-worse" economic decline, deepening poverty, debt difficulties and the mounting possibility of societal collapse in some of the poorest nations. Meanwhile, according to the United Nations, military spending has increased world-wide during the decade.

...between 1960 and 1980, world-wide military expenditures about doubled, in real terms. After decelerating in the 1970s real expenditures increased sharply in the period after 1980. The result has been that whereas military expenditures as a percentage of world gross national product declined from 1960 through 1980, they have increased from 1980 on. It has been estimated that in excess of \$800 billion was spent on armaments and military personnel world-

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<sup>8</sup> World Military and Social Expenditures 1987-88, Sivard, Table II, pp.43-45 and World Development Report 1988, The World Bank, Table 21, p.262.

<sup>9</sup> The Canadian World Almanac, 1988, Global Press, Toronto, p.102.

<sup>10</sup> North-South News, Spring 1989, No. 8.