

*Prevention of Military Aggression*

one agency of the United Nations which has certainly fulfilled over more than two decades a very important role in economic and social stability. I refer to the role of UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund. Let me begin speaking about the role of this particular agency by quoting from a paper prepared by the Canadian UNICEF committee, dated September, 1970, commenting on the white papers entitled "Foreign Policy for Canadians" which were tabled in the House of Commons last year. The paper reads:

Consider the condition of children in developing countries, where their numbers alone are staggering. Forty percent of the total population of developing countries, some 700 million, are children under 15 years of age. It is estimated that every half minute a hundred children are born in developing countries. Twenty percent perish at birth. Sixty percent suffer from malnutrition during the first crucial years, which often leads to irreversible physical and mental retardation. Less than 50 per cent who live to school age have a chance to attend even primary school, and fewer than half of those who attend will ever complete it. As the Commission on International Development, chaired by the Rt. Hon. Lester B. Pearson, succinctly stated:

"The physical and mental development of this generation is not only a matter of immediate concern, it is also of central importance to the whole process of development".

Today, our capacity to help the individual child is expanded every year. We know more about the child. We know more about the effects of deficiencies in health care, nutrition, education and housing. We have more specialized resources to help the child, yet our ability to extend these advances to the world's children on a massive scale is indeed limited.

Further on in the paper we find these words:

The program of the United Nations Children's Fund is designed to give assistance to strategic government programs for the direct benefit of children, always related to the overall economic and social development program within the country. The UNICEF program recognizes both the vital importance of children to the process of development and the fact that, where assistance to children is concerned, tomorrow is too late.

Operating with a 1970 budget of \$54.5 million, UNICEF provides assistance to programs of health, nutrition, family and child welfare, education, pre-vocational training and emergency aid to assist children in 112 developing countries. The availability of UNICEF assistance is often the deciding factor in the introduction of these programs.

Based on total revenue, 92 per cent of the UNICEF budget is spent directly on programs in the form of equipment, supplies and operational services, only 8 per cent of the budget being spent on the administration essential to the proper planning and operation of the programs.

One of the most important features of the UNICEF programs is its catalytic effect within the recipient country. On an average, the equivalent of \$2.50 is provided by the recipient country for every \$1 of assistance provided by UNICEF. This local involvement in the program enables UNICEF to phase itself out once the project is viable and to extend its assistance in another area crucial to that country's children.

UNICEF has a unique position in the consciousness and affections of the Canadian public. The participation and involvement of three-quarters of a million young Canadian children at Halloween is indeed significant. These children only collect over \$666,000 annually—1969 figures—but gain through educational programs an early association with problems of overseas development.

And the plight and problems of the world's children in the developing countries.

The lasting nature of this experience is demonstrated by the ever-increasing number of spontaneous programs organized by

[Mr. Deachman.]

high school students throughout Canada and the "Miles for Millions" walk program. Fourteen agencies share the organization of "Miles for Millions" but in most cases the disposition of funds to these agencies is decided locally. In 1969 these local allocations to UNICEF increased by 84 per cent.

There was a further increase this year. Again, through the greeting-card program the Canadian UNICEF committee involves many hundreds of thousands of persons and companies through the purchase of UNICEF cards. I notice at Christmas time when I receive cards from many members of the House of Commons that more and more of them are using the UNICEF card because they know a portion of their contribution provides assistance to children in developing countries many of whom spend a very gloomy Christmas indeed. The Canadian UNICEF committee is a volunteer organization supported by an estimated 35,000 adult volunteer workers in all the provinces of Canada. Its annual contribution to UNICEF is among the highest in the world.

I do not want to pass the subject of the work of UNICEF generally and the work of UNICEF in Canada in particular without making reference to the Pakistan disaster and the efforts being made by Canadians in respect of that disaster. This illustrates very well the way an agency such as UNICEF fits into the scene when a major disaster strikes. I should like to read from a report issued in August on the visit to the Pakistani refugee camps in India by Paul Ignatieff, executive director of the Canadian UNICEF committee. He said:

● (4:30 p.m.)

The magnitude of the refugee problem defies description; it is undoubtedly the largest migration in accurately recorded history. The number of refugees who have now moved from East Bengal into India is equivalent to the entire population of Ontario—over 7 million. Only someone familiar with the logistics of supplying an army or a city the size of Toronto, could easily understand the problems being posed to the government of India in providing adequate shelter, food and medical services for this number of people. Obviously a problem of this magnitude requires assistance on a world wide scale.

He went on to say:

The assistance being provided to the refugees by the government and people of India is incredible. 4.5 million of the 7 million refugees are in camps and are being provided with shelter, food and medical facilities, as available, at a scale which is often better than that available to a great proportion of the Indian population.

As hon. members will realize, these camps are located near Calcutta, itself a disaster from the standpoint of human poverty and suffering. Speaking specifically of Canadian policy and the Canadian contribution, Mr. Ignatieff continued:

The Canadian government's recent decision against the provision of arms to Pakistan has created a unique affection for our country throughout India and gives us a unique opportunity to interpret the position of the developed world to the people and government of India. The government of Canada could further assist in interpreting India's attitudes to the developed world.

Particularly it is hoped that the government of Canada could use this reservoir of influence to increase India's acceptance of foreign material and personnel.

One realizes that the plight of the Pakistani people has been before the Canadian public since last November. In a sense, the current refugee problem in India is an emergency within an emergency. Nevertheless, it is hoped that the people of