

CIDA review 1970-1974

The volume of Canada's appropriations for development assistance rose from \$339 million in 1969-70 to \$733 million in 1974-75, an increase of almost 100 per cent. This and other information regarding the activities of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), are contained in *Taking Stock*, a recent publication of the Agency, which reviews its activities from 1970 to 1974. Highlights from the review follow:

Canada's official development assistance represented 0.48 per cent of the gross national product in 1973-74, compared to 0.40 in 1970-71. Disbursements of \$733 million in 1974-75 could represent 0.53 per cent.

The progress of projects has been speeded up significantly and greater emphasis is being placed on their social impact. CIDA has increasingly concerned itself with types of assistance that provide direct benefits to the poorest and most disadvantaged.

The volume of development assistance programs must continue to expand not only to compensate for the rate of inflation but to reflect the rapid increase in the wealth of the industrialized countries.

Third World countries are demanding a radically new world order in which power and wealth will be shared in a more equitable manner.

CIDA is preparing a "basic developmental strategy" for the next five years which will help identify new horizons of developmental co-operation.

Canada's bilateral program is scheduled to grow from \$258 million in 1969-70 to \$389 million in 1974-75.

The multilateral share of Canada's aid program is expected to triple, rising from \$74 million in 1969-70 to \$206 million in 1974-75.

Funds provided to voluntary agencies, usually on a matching basis, rose from \$6 million in 1969-70 to \$24 million in 1974-75.

Funds allotted to the International Development Research Centre rose from \$2 million in 1970-71 to an expected \$19 million in 1974-75.

Humanitarian aid to Southern Africa in 1973-74, such as to the UN Trust Fund, for scholarships and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees,

amounted to \$302,000.

To help fight malnutrition and boost food production in developing countries, CIDA contributes to agricultural projects of the FAO, the World Bank Group, the UNDP, international agricultural research institutes, to various bilateral programs, including 80 fisheries projects, NGO projects, and to the special funds of regional development banks.

Canada spent \$250 million in the past four years to help develop the energy sector in Third World countries. This was double disbursements of the past 16 years.

Canada is the second largest contributor to the World Food Program and the third largest donor of wheat under the Food Aid Convention. More than 2.3 million tons of 15 types of food were shipped in the past three years. More than half was wheat — 1.9 million tons. Disbursements in these years ending in 1973-74 amounted to \$250 million.

\$159-million worth of commodities (metals, fertilizer, forest products) were shipped mainly to developing countries in Asia in the past three years.

Engineering students aid handicapped

Complete loss of sensation from the neck down, total immobility, complete dependence on others to feed, wash, clothe you, write letters and do a hundred other things while the mind is sharp, active and frustrated is a frequent condition of paralyzed patients.

Although, short of a miracle, little can be done for these sufferers medically, a professor and three students from Montreal's McGill University's Department of Mechanical Engineering have designed a mechanical feeder that allows a quadriplegic to feed himself at his own pace without assistance, by the merest movement of his head.

Under the direction of Professor David Pfeiffer, second year engineering students David MacKay, Douglas Kennedy and Patrick McNally took on the "feeder" project as part of their Design II course last year. Working on a shoe-string budget of about \$50 they had to come up with a design that was economically feasible but which came as close as possible to simulating



Patrick McNally, McGill student, demonstrates feeding-aid that he helped to design.

normal feeding activity. Piping food through a tube into the patient's mouth, although easy to design, was considered too unnatural and inhuman.

How it works

The result of three months' hard labour was a simple, ingenious device that is connected to a table trolley from which the patient eats. Under the table are two motors, one of which spins a disc above the table where a plate is set. The other moves a crank to which an arm and spoon are attached.

A cam mechanism allows the spoon to follow a certain cycle during which it is lowered onto the plate, scoops from the far side of the plate towards the patient, picking up food as it comes, halts against a back stop of the plate's edge and then rises to the patient's mouth. At this stage the patient activates a stop switch by tilting his head slightly to the right against a wire connected to the motor. When he has taken a mouthful of food and feels prepared for the next he reactivates the motor and the spoon returns to the plate. By nodding his head to the left he touches a second wire which revolves the plate. In this way the spoon does not cross the plate in the same spot each time.

While designing and building the machine, students consulted with a nurse and patient in the Montreal Neurological Hospital, where the feeder has been used with much success.