

CONFRONTED WITH THE GREAT NUMBER OF DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN, MY UNDERLYING PRINCIPLE IS THAT WE MUST NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE: FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY: AND OF THE FACT THAT IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY, WE MUST WORK AT ALL LEVELS.

WE HAVE TAKEN THE FIRST MAJOR STEP, IN THAT WE HAVE REALIZED THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION... OUR ROLE IS TO ENCOURAGE, TO SHAPE, TO HELP GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLE THEMSELVES TO MAKE THE NECESSARY CHANGES. ECOLOGICAL REDRESS, INCREASE IN FOOD PRODUCTION, THESE THINGS WILL ONLY HAPPEN IF ACTION IS TAKEN ON ALL FRONTS: AGRICULTURAL AND RESEARCH POLICIES; TRAINING AND EDUCATION OF PEOPLE; AID IN PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES...

THROUGH DIALOGUE, THROUGH ASSISTANCE, WE INVITE AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS TO REFORM THEIR AGRICULTURAL POLICIES. WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, WE ENCOURAGE RESEARCH. AFRICAN AGRICULTURE COULD BENEFIT GREATLY FROM NEW TYPES OF SEEDS THAT ARE BETTER ADAPTED TO THE ENVIRONMENT, AND FROM APPROPRIATE AGRICULTURAL METHODS AND TECHNIQUES. TO THIS END WE ENCOURAGE INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION OF EFFORT, AND OUR OWN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE (IDRC) PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THIS FIELD. WE ALSO BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL TO TRAIN AFRICAN RESEARCHERS AND TECHNICIANS, AS WELL AS TO UNDERTAKE A PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMME.

IN THE SHORT TERM, IN ORDER TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, WE MUST SUPPLY FERTILIZERS, SEEDS, AND TOOLS. TO ENCOURAGE THE FARMERS THEMSELVES, WE MUST INVEST ABOVE AND BEYOND PRODUCTION... WITHOUT