

of development assistance and food aid, and adopting constructive approaches in the international dialogue on food and agricultural issues. The agricultural sector will be of the highest priority in the 1980s in Canada's development assistance activities. In doing so, we will devote an increasing share of our agricultural assistance to help developing countries improve their ability to meet their own needs for essential food and safe water. We will also encourage a co-ordinated food sector approach to rural development. We would hope that the least-developed countries would attach a similar high priority to the agriculture sector as has been recommended by Secretary-General Corea and the World Bank.

Canada's support of a self-reliant strategy in the food sector is based on the recognition that it is neither feasible nor desirable for the needs of most low-income, food-deficit countries to be met solely through food imports and food aid -- over-dependence on which can constitute a major disincentive to agricultural development. As a major food-aid donor, we will increasingly direct our bilateral assistance to the most severe emergency and short-term needs of low-income, food-deficit countries and, wherever possible, our aid will be utilized as "development capital" for projects and programmes designed to increase self-sufficiency in less-developed areas. Canada will also continue to be a major contributor to the world food programme.

The impact of the energy crisis has been felt severely in the least-developed countries, which generally lack both indigenous supplies of hydrocarbons and the export capability to finance increased energy bills. Other sources of fuel, such as firewood, on which the rural population of the least developed countries depend, are becoming depleted, with serious environmental and social consequences.

As Prime Minister Trudeau indicated at the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy in Nairobi, Canada plans to increase its development assistance in the energy sector, an area where we have considerable expertise and experience. Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) will undertake a major programme of energy research which will be conducted largely in the least-developed countries and will stress the use of indigenous resources in solving local energy problems. In addition, Canada will also be contributing \$25 million towards a programme to develop and apply new energy technologies, particularly in the Sahel region.