

by way of development assistance. Thus, to some extent at least, the health and vigour of the world economy, including particularly the maintenance of strong demand for commodities, is more important to the oil importing developing countries than the maintenance of development assistance.

The situation I have just described is particularly relevant to the Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the issue of raw materials and development which will start on April 9.

As both an important producer and consumer of natural resources -- renewable and non-renewable -- Canada has a deep interest in ensuring the maintenance of markets, of orderly supply, reasonable prices for both producer and consumer, and the best use of the world resources both in domestic terms and internationally.

While it is likely that agricultural commodities and food supply problems will be discussed to some extent at the forthcoming Special Session they will be at the centre of the World Food Conference which will take place in Rome next November.

#### World Food and World Population Conferences

The relationship of resources, food and population is obvious. Within a space of twenty-five years, the world's population is expected to reach a figure of 6 billion. To underline the common concern about this problem, 1974 has been designated World Population Year. A World Population Conference will be held in Bucharest in August. The Conference will examine the relations between population and economic and social development, resources and environment. These are questions of the first importance to all countries. The Government has initiated major preparations for Canada's participation. The CIAA, in conjunction with the Family Planning Federation and the Inter-Church Project on Population, will be holding a series of meetings across Canada beginning this week. The provinces will also be consulted in the final preparations for the Canadian delegation's brief.

Changing demand and consumption patterns and the aggravation of the supply situation by natural causes are already such that food reserves are being run down at an alarming rate and starvation conditions already exist in some parts of Africa. The shortfall in production in the Asian sub-continent is this year expected to reach serious proportions. Shortages of fertilizer and the high cost of other agricultural inputs can only serve to aggravate the situation, particularly in the developing countries which have struggled to attain some measure of self-sufficiency.

Canada will look to the World Food Conference to marshal opinion and forces for a concerted and coherent attack on the problem.

Canada is an important food producer and exporter and we have in the past been a major provider of emergency supplies in times of world need. Although we are in effect a marginal supplier of world food requirements, we will continue to do our part in improving production and providing emergency aid. But the real nub of the problem lies in capitalizing on the food production potential of the developing countries where the worst food supply situations will arise. The