

be confined for the benefit solely of Canadians. In comparison with the daily lives of the great majority of humanity, Canadians are immensely fortunate, whether measured in terms of political rights, in terms of freedom from the fear of violence, or in terms of standard of living. By contrast, two thirds of mankind live in a state of perpetual misery and struggle, with per capita annual incomes measured in hundreds, not thousands, of dollars.

The world is now too small to permit such disparities to continue. Unless these differences are eliminated, the pressures on the rich nations will become so intense as to force them either to share in equal measure or to make decisions of frightening moral consequence. By the year 2000 the population of the world will be 7.5 billion, twice what it is today, and 80 per cent of these people will be living in the developing countries. There is no rational or moral justification for a lack of response now by Canada and other developed nations to their undeniable needs. In these respects we should be familiar with the alarming observation of Chateaubriand who wrote of a similar, but infinitely smaller, problem in Europe a century and a half ago. He stated:

● (2:20 p.m.)

Try to convince the poor man, once he has learned to read and ceased to believe, once he has become as well informed as yourself, try to convince him that he must submit to every sort of privation, while his neighbour possesses a thousand times what he needs; in the last result you would have to kill him.

These are sobering and frightening thoughts. They explain the decision of Canada, at this time of austerity in most governmental programs, to increase the value of our foreign economic assistance budget and to create, after extensive planning and consultation with other countries, an International Development Research Centre which will be charged with the responsibility of improving the qualitative effect of Canadian and other aid projects. The Centre is an exciting concept; a recognition that accelerated economic growth is a complex task, and is deeply interrelated with problems of social development. I am sure all hon. members will agree that it is fitting that Canada, long among the most active of contributors to foreign aid—and this year the host to the 20th annual meeting of the Colombo Plan countries—should take a lead in this important respect. It must continue to be the responsibility of all of us here to ensure that

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Canadians will understand the need, and support increasing expenditures, for developmental programs. In these respects, we share the pride of all the world in the important task performed so well for the World Bank by that distinguished Canadian, the Right Hon. Lester B. Pearson. His commission and its report have brought honour to him and to Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Trudeau: The breathtaking exploits which took man to the moon this summer emphasize the lack of success which has greeted efforts to overcome the much less exciting, but nevertheless much more difficult and important, task of resolving human differences on this planet. The tragic conflict in Nigeria continues, notwithstanding the efforts of African states and many countries outside of that continent to assist in its resolution. Canada makes no claim to possession of superior wisdom in matters of this kind; it bows to none, however, in its desire to relieve suffering and attain peace. In our efforts to lighten the humanitarian burden, Canadian officials in a number of countries have conducted and are conducting investigations, offering suggestions, advancing proposals; my personal representative has visited Africa twice to talk with Nigerian and other leaders and been to both London and Washington in this same pursuit; the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) has been untiring in his travels and discussions—both he and I have held talks with the Secretary General of the United Nations. Canada has not been successful in bringing the war to a conclusion, and this the government regrets. Nor does it make any of us here less sad to know that several African leaders, including one who has recognized Biafra, have stated publicly that there is little if anything that Canada can usefully do in these respects—in addition to what it is doing—at this time while both sides remain intransigent in their basic attitudes and while the overwhelming majority of African states insist that this is a problem for Africans, not outsiders to solve.

The humanitarian consequences of this tragedy, however, are a burden for all mankind, not just Africa. Every child that starves in any part of Nigeria is a matter for the conscience of us all. Canada has been in the forefront in supplying food and relief materials to the International Committee of the Red Cross for distribution to civilians throughout Nigeria, on both sides of the fighting lines. Canadian government contributions amount to some \$3 million; we are prepared to make