The Content of the Programme

The provision of development assistance involves the transfer of resources from Canada to developing countries. In the case of the bilateral programmes, the transfer for the most part takes the form of the direct provision of Canadian goods and services. In the case of the multilateral programmes, part of the cash contributions is not tied to procurement in Canada but a significant portion flows back for the purchase of Canadian goods and services. Thus the total programme draws upon a wide range of Canadian expertise, services and products.

The Canadian development assistance programme has historically placed considerable emphasis on the provision of technical assistance to the developing countries as a means of transferring knowledge and expertise. Under the technical assistance programme, advisers are sent to developing countries and students are brought to Canada for enrolment in Canadian universities, technical schools or special industrial courses. Canadian teachers have also been provided to the developing countries, primarily at secondary levels, both academic and technical, and at universities. In recent years, an increasing amount of technical assistance has been extended through contracts with consulting firms, universities, government departments and agencies, and other private and public organizations. In this way, the total resources and experience of Canadian organizations can be used to establish and support similar institutions in the developing countries.

A wide range of capital equipment and related services is also financed under the development assistance programme. These include telecommunications, railway, aircraft and other transportation and communications equipment, electrical-generation and transmission equipment, engineering services for surveys, feasibility studies and design engineering, food-processing equipment, breeding cattle and many other types of capital goods and related services.

As the basic industrial systems of some of the developing countries have become better established, an increasing proportion of the Canadian programme has been provided in the form of industrial raw materials such as pulp, newsprint, asbestos, copper, aluminum and other non-ferrous metals, fertilizers and semi-manufactured components. Although the composition of this form of aid may change as requirements in developing countries evolve, it is expected that it will continue to account for an important part of the Canadian bilateral programme.