

Although food aid is, in one sense, humanitarian relief for the hungry, we also regard it as an integral part of our regular development assistance. By responding to the urgent need for food aid, we are freeing, for purposes more directly related to the economic development process, foreign-exchange resources which would otherwise be used for the purchase of foodstuffs.

It is our present intention to continue this food aid on the basis of grants rather than loans, in order to ensure that the debt-servicing positions of the developing countries are not further strained. In our view, it is necessary to draw a clear distinction between terms of aid and conditions of aid. While keeping our terms liberal, we are anxious to join with others in efforts to ensure that food aid will be used under conditions which will have the maximum impact in improving levels of agricultural productivity in the developing countries.

As Canada expands the size of its bilateral and multilateral aid programmes, more resources will become available for assistance to agriculture and we look to the DAC for increasing help in administering this assistance. The DAC might well serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas and techniques for improvements in the carrying-out of aid programmes in the agricultural sector. Exchanges of views with countries whose experience is greater than our own would be most helpful and would assist us in responding to the aid requests of the developing countries and in suggesting to them how Canadian agricultural assistance might be more effective.

In addition, a co-ordinated approach might be particularly helpful in leading to greater emphasis on self-help in agriculture and the importance of adequate performance by the developing countries. The DAC has done some general work in this field and more may be possible. The IBRD consortia and consultative groups can also play a helpful role. We intend to rely increasingly on these groups to evaluate, on a country-by-country basis, the adequacy of the performance of the local governments, and the most appropriate form and terms for external assistance. The DAC might find it useful to look closely at the role of IBRD groups to see if there are ways to make them even more effective.

Here we are quite properly concerned with official aid programmes, the channel through which the bulk of assistance will have to flow. However, we should not overlook non-governmental groups, which can play a helpful role in complementing these official activities. For example, private industry can make a real contribution, and the FAO is already attempting to co-ordinate and encourage these activities. A most significant recent development has been the action of His Holiness the Pope in setting up the special committee, headed by Cardinal Roy of Canada, to mobilize the Church for an active role in the world's war on hunger. Similar work is being done by other churches and by various secular organizations; the agricultural research work of the Rockefeller Foundation, for example, has been outstanding. In conclusion, I should like to endorse the carefully-drafted words of Paragraph 9 of the recommendation about consultation and co-ordination with other international organizations. Like other governments, we channel a substantial portion of our aid funds to the Specialized Agencies of the UN and to the IDA, and we are anxious to ensure that their efforts to meet food and agricultural problems complement bilateral