

I think I have said enough to indicate that the state of the world of a quarter century from now is not irrelevant to how we allocate our resources today, and our patterns of expenditure in Canada testify to this. Foreign aid is an allocation of today's resources to affect precisely the same period of our lives that educational expenditures, pension contributions and many other social welfare expenditures are designed to affect. In a real sense, therefore, the world of 25 years hence is the most relevant factor in the calculation of the allocation of our resources. It is the time in which our children and grandchildren will have to go into the world to make their living, and the time when most of us hope to enjoy the fruits of our labour over the preceding years.

We must ask, then: "What kind of world do we want our children and grandchildren to work in? And what kind of world do we want to retire in?" The answer to that double-barrelled question should be a determinant as we assess our motivations for foreign aid.

If assistance to developing countries is to be an important factor bearing on the world in which we will be living ten, 20 or 30 years from now, we have to know why the conditions in the developing countries at that time will be so important to us as individual Canadians. The humanitarian feeling will not lessen. I predict, rather, that it will increase as the years go by and we become more and more familiar with the exploding problems of the Third World. This increasing concern will flow from the rapidly developing world communications.

We are all familiar with Marshall McLuhan's conception of the global village. We can no longer ignore what happens in other countries. Tanks roll across our living-room screens, people fall in a hail of gunfire. We see it all happening. We are, in a profoundly emotional sense, very much "there". Campuses burn, statesmen meet, rockets roar off to the moon, and we are "there". So, too, are millions of others. When the American astronauts floated down into the Pacific after their thrilling voyage to the moon, they were watched in the U.S.S.R. and many other parts of the world.

If the problems and human misery in Vietnam or Nigeria impinge upon, and deeply affect, our lives today, then the communications explosion coming in the next 25 years will certainly not allow us to ignore the misery of India, Indonesia, northeast Brazil or of other deprived regions of the world. Television beamed directly into our living-rooms by satellite, more sophisticated electronic news media, greater travel by "jumbo jet", more leisure time to travel -- all these will heighten our awareness of the kind of world community in which we live. And if the youth of today are unhappy with the world we are bequathing to them and what we are doing about it, they will be doubly so in 25 years unless we act and act now. It is no longer a question of standing on the sidelines. We are in the game. This is why we are reviewing our foreign and defence policies so thoroughly. This is why we are taking a long, hard look at the part our foreign-aid expenditures play in our global policy. Just as most wealthy Canadians and Canadian corporations now properly feel that they have a responsibility to help solve some of our domestic, social and environmental problems, as communications push the boundaries of our human community beyond our national boundaries, so must we as a nation increase our contribution to the eradication of poverty on a world-wide basis. The conditions of the world community do, and to an increasing extent will, impinge upon our own ability to enjoy our own lives.