

Minister. "Farmers in our own country are now harvesting food from land that once was arid, or bush, or marsh, and we have developed new species and new methods to make agriculture one of the most efficient industries of our nation. Our fishermen have similarly used their skills to harvest our abundant fish stocks. Under proper management we believe our marine resources will forever play a vital role in feeding Canada and the world," he said.

Canadian Agriculture Minister John Wise, who also addressed conference representatives, said Canada had been "in the process of improving a food strategy that is based on an approach that seeks to integrate both national and international considerations".

Sound domestic base

The Minister said the objectives of the strategy were to develop Canada's agricultural potential and improve the "health of [its] agri-food base" so that Canada could assume its domestic and international responsibilities from a firm foundation. Canadian agricultural productivity was one of the highest in the world, with Canadian farmers producing over five times as much now as they did 30 years ago, said Mr. Wise. To achieve this level of productivity, he added, Canada had relied heavily not only on the commitment of producers but also on Canadian technological advances.

"Many industrialized as well as developing countries face the uncertainty of a continuing supply of oil at stable prices. At the same time many of us are passing through a period of low economic growth, high inflation, unemployment and balance-of-payment difficulties," said the Minister. "For Canada to be in a position where we can shoulder our responsibilities within the international community it is vital that we are able to work from a position of domestic strength..."

Mr. Wise said that he was convinced that long-term solutions should be sought to the problems of inequitable distribution, malnutrition and rural poverty rather than concentrating efforts on short term emergency situations. Good harvests in the past three years had helped to rebuild food stocks and improve the world food situation, he said. Canada's present level of grain stocks are the highest since 1972.

There has been increased investment in

food production in developing countries and governments have begun to give greater attention to the longer term food needs of their peoples, the Minister said. The flow of development aid to agriculture has more than doubled in real terms since 1974. Mechanisms for emergency food relief, such as the World Food Programme and the International Emergency Food Reserve have been strengthened, thereby contributing positively to world food security, said Mr. Wise.

Agriculture and fisheries development were the first essentials for better nutrition and for generating increased income and employment as a solid basis for greater economic growth, said the Minister. "...Canada supports a redirection of investment priorities by developing countries to agriculture as a core growth sector," he said.

To solve the problems of malnutrition and food shortages, "a broader development approach than in the past is required to direct investment simultaneously to improvements in infrastructure, elimination of disease, resettlement of people, greater research efforts and application of modern technology".

He also said a long-term solution must be sought through development policies which increase employment for the rural landless and the urban poor and which increase production by small subsistence farmers.

Canada's commitments

"For long-term world security, developed countries such as Canada must increase their productivity and reduce costs; developing countries should direct increased energies and resources toward more self-reliant policies in favour of food and agricultural development," said the Minister. Canada's bilateral aid program has placed a growing emphasis on projects to improve the supply and distribution of food, he said. In light of this, Mr. Wise announced that Canada was establishing a special \$2-million fund to assist developing countries to prepare long-term national food sector strategies for the 1980s.

Canada is participating within the International Wheat Council to review the prospects for a balanced wheat trade agreement that would ensure adequate returns to producers and supply availabilities for consumers. Mr. Wise said that the Canadian Government now is prepared to negotiate a new food aid conven-

tion separately from a new wheat trade convention.

Canada also intends to provide 600,000 tonnes of grain annually to the new food aid convention, the Minister said. He also announced that the Canadian Government would make a \$5.5-million contribution to the International Emergency Food Reserve, set up to aid countries whose food supply is damaged or ruined by disasters.

Mr. Wise also proposed two topics for discussion at the next Council session: the effectiveness of the national food sector strategies prepared as a result of the Ottawa conference, combined with an assessment of those sectors of agriculture most in need of additional investment; and a greater emphasis on the role of fisheries in meeting the protein requirements of all countries.

Delegation attends funeral

A senior Canadian delegation attended the funeral of Earl Mountbatten of Burma in London, September 5.

Canada was represented by: two former Governors-General, Roland Michener and Jules Léger and their wives; Lieutenant-Governor Pauline McGibbon of Ontario; Marcel Lambert, Member of Parliament, former Minister of Veterans' Affairs and a veteran of Dieppe; Grace McCarthy, Deputy Premier and Minister of Human Resources of British Columbia; Admiral Robert Falls, Chief of the Defence Staff; retired Brigadier-General James A. de Lalanne, Dominion Grand President, Royal Canadian Legion; retired Rear Admiral Horatio Nelson Lay, former Vice Chief of Naval Staff of Canada; and Paul Martin High Commissioner for Canada in Britain and Mrs. Martin.

Canadian flags flew at half-mast on the day of the funeral. This order, although unusual in protocol terms, was in recognition of Lord Mountbatten's key role in the Second World War and his important contributions to the Commonwealth.

In addition, a 30-man marching contingent from the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) took part in the funeral procession, at the late Earl's request. The Earl's daughter, Lady Patricia Brabourne, is Colonel-in-Chief of the PPCLI, and is a direct descendant of the original Princess Patricia (Lady Patricia Ramsay).