

All Canadians will welcome the steady increase in the size of our development assistance programme. But I hope I have made clear that to achieve a steady increase in the amounts we devote to aid -- however welcome -- is only the beginning of the answer. It is all too easy in international discussions to focus on the volume of aid simply because volume is easy to talk about. To do so ignores those problems of quality to which I referred earlier. We have a good way to go yet before we find the best means for applying Canadian resources to the problems of the developing countries.

In future, I judge that all groups in Canada concerned with aid -- including this Committee -- will want to proceed on the basis that increasing the volume of our aid is no longer the real question. There can be argument about how fast we are moving. But the fact is that ever larger funds are being committed every year. It will be easier to be satisfied with this trend if we are sure we have devised programmes which guarantee these funds are being effectively spent. This should be the test of the success of our aid policy, rather than whether we succeed in meeting some arbitrary target.