

Recent studies have cast in stark relief the gravity of the world food situation and have brought home the need for imaginative and vigorous efforts on the part of both developed and developing countries in order to avert the calamity of the prospective food gap.

Canada, as a major producer and exporter of foodstuffs, has a vital interest both in the future world demand for and supply of food, as well as in implications of the food situation for the economic progress and well-being of developing countries. I have already mentioned the burden which developing countries must shoulder in implementing certain fundamental changes in their economies necessary for expanding agricultural productivity. Developed countries must exert new efforts to assist this process both on the bilateral and multilateral plane. Technical assistance is one of the most important ways in which donor countries can help. My country will give the highest priority to requests for assistance which we are competent to provide in the fields of agriculture and fisheries. In addition to increasing and improving our technical assistance, we shall seek to increase what we are doing by way of assistance in other forms such as the supply of fertilizers, pesticides, and farm implements.

But besides technical assistance and development aid to increase productivity through irrigation and drainage projects--to mention only one example--we anticipate a continuing need for the provision of food supplies on an interim basis. Here the World Food Programme--to which incidentally Canadian contributions have quadrupled during the past three years --has a central role to play. As far as Canada is concerned, we regard food aid not only as humanitarian relief for the hungry but also as an integral part of our regular development assistance. For example, by responding as we did this year with a million tons of foodstuffs to meet the emergency situation in India, we freed foreign exchange resources for purposes more directly related to essential economic demands. In this connection, I might mention that it is Canada's intention to continue to extend food aid in the form of grants rather than loans so as not to impose further strains on the debt-servicing capacity of developing countries.

The third and last topic I intend to single out for special mention is our joint endeavours to expand the share of world trade in manufactured and semi-manufactured products of the developing countries. There is no need to belabour in this Committee the importance of the relationship between industrialization and economic development. I have already touched on the vital contribution