

One feature of our program of which Canada can be proud is that the terms of our development assistance, by the standards of the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD, are the "softest" of any member of the DAC. Many of the less-developed countries will face serious debt-servicing problems in the future. Some already have. With an increasing emphasis being placed in the Canadian program on the special needs and problems of the least-developed countries, we feel it is important to maintain the soft terms for the major part of our program, while at the same time extending some of our loans on slightly harder terms to countries which are better able to bear the burden of debt-servicing.

We have been called upon to help alleviate the effects of natural disasters and political crises: in the Indian subcontinent, where our relief and reconstruction efforts continue; in Nicaragua, where Canada is helping to rebuild the shattered city of Managua; in Zambia, where Canada responded to Zambia's needs in the wake of the Rhodesia border closure by providing an \$8-million loan to Zambia, Tanzania and the East African Community to help develop alternative routes for Zambian imports and exports, and by speeding up shipment of 40 rail tank-cars, and cargo-handling equipment being provided under CIDA's regular program.

In 1972/73 we continued to channel approximately 25 per cent of our disbursements through multilateral channels, as the foreign policy review recommended. Our recent membership in the Inter-American Development Bank is one indication of our growing support for multilateral institutions. We also maintained our support of other regional institutions and agencies; the list on Pages 72-73 of the estimates gives some indication of the variety of organizations with which we are involved.

Our support for non-governmental organizations is increasing, for we consider that the money provided by the Canadian Government is more than matched by the resources and enthusiasm of these organizations. One such organization is CUSO (Canadian University Service Overseas), which has won a well-deserved reputation abroad for providing competent and responsive volunteers. Their volunteers, when they return to Canada, bring a deeper understanding of the problems of development.

Perhaps the most important single event which focused the attention of the international community on development questions was the third United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Santiago last spring. Development needs are great and expectations about the amount of progress which can be made at such conferences were probably unrealistically high. For these reasons, there was obviously disappointment both in Canada and abroad over the results of UNCTAD III. We felt, however, that UNCTAD III revealed a new maturity in the international approach to development problems and a better appreciation that there are no easy solutions to most of them. One of the most important results of the conference was agreement that the developing countries' voice should be strengthened on questions regarding trade liberalization and monetary reform, since it was realized these were integral parts of the development process. Another important result of the conference was the action program set out for the least-developed of the developing countries. Since the conference, there has been movement in the international community, indicating that these results