

ly striving to improve the situation of agriculture in Canada generally, but more specifically in the province of Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, the motion before the House today lists five areas of concern in agriculture, and I suggest that in his remarks a while ago, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) clearly indicated that he is well aware of them. I should like to mention the efforts the Department of Agriculture has been making to sell our surplus abroad, with particular emphasis on the work the Minister of Agriculture recently carried out in a number of countries. Canada is one of the major food producing countries in the world and must, because of this, assume a large burden of responsibility for the millions of starving human beings all over the world.

The malnutrition problem can be solved only by increasing the food production of developing countries. We must however expect food assistance in the form of donations from wealthy countries to continue to be necessary for a long time. Canadian food assistance is sent multilaterally and through certain non-government organizations. Before 1974, most of this assistance was given bilaterally, that is from country to country. In 1976, Canada sent directly to the poorest countries \$125 million worth of food products. More than 20 countries have benefited from this assistance in the last five years.

Canada sends most of its food assistance through the United Nations World Food Program which includes more than 100 donating or receiving countries. Canadian shipments are made up mostly of wheat surplus, wheat flour, powdered skim milk, which is often mentioned in relation with our dairy policy, cheese, fish, canned beef, beans and egg powder. From 1973, when the World Food Program was created, to 1976, the total contribution of Canada in funds and in food products amounted to \$320 million, including \$50 million in funds. UNICEF and other UN organizations also benefit from this type of assistance. Finally, part of our food assistance is distributed through non-government organizations.

Important conferences on this subject have been held in the last few weeks. The Minister of Agriculture represented our country at these conferences. At the 19th FAO Conference held in Rome on November 16, 1977, the Minister of Agriculture noted that the commitment of Canada to the World Food Program for the fiscal year 1977-78 amounted to 400,000 tons of grain, which is part of our commitment of one million ton for the current year, in addition to \$13 million worth of other food products and \$10 million in funds.

Canada also announced his intention, subject to parliamentary approval, to contribute \$7.5 million for 500,000 tons of the emergency world food reserve. Our country also pays \$33 million to the International Farm Development Fund because we believe it is important to invest in international farming development. In spite of the enormous quantity of food products transported from one continent to another, most human beings depend on the food produced in their own country or near their own town or village. This is why Canada strongly

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supports increased food production in underdeveloped countries. The Canadian aim is to devote 33 per cent of its bilateral funds to agricultural development projects for 1977 to 1982.

This sector would thus be the major beneficiary of our bilateral aid program. Right now almost 300 agricultural projects are already under way or are being planned and, for all practical purposes, Canadian assistance in various sectors is over \$1 billion a year.

At the meeting of the OECD agriculture committee held in Paris on February 9 and 10 last, the Minister of Agriculture of Canada, as deputy chairman of the committee, pointed out that the food strategy which is being set up in Canada will be beneficial for Canadian farming as well as for our world food assistance. The aims suggested for the food strategy are as follows: to give consumers permanent access to high quality food at reasonable prices; second, to assure a decent agricultural income enabling farmers to enjoy an acceptable standard of living; third, to produce for export purposes the foodstuff for which the country enjoys a worldwide competitive position; fourth, to provide food assistance to needy countries.

On that occasion, he pointed out that it was no longer sufficient to assess the quality of our food aid programs and that we should also consider the whole food supply management at the international level. Finally, at the United Nations and FAO Conference on the contributions to the World Food Program held in New York City on February 21 last, the minister reported that the Canadian government had allowed \$95 million for each of the years 1979 and 1980. The two year plan therefore grants \$170 million in food and \$20 million in cash. That aid reflects the concern of Canada over the world food situation. Our contribution to the developing countries covers therefore three main aspects: aid under the form of food, whether wheat, skim powder or cheese which are surplus products in Canada and represent several tens of millions of dollars in technical aid.

So, Canada has tried over the years 70 to draw closer its ties with its neighbours of Latin America. One of the first steps in this direction is a bilateral technical aid program in Latin America, through the Canadian International Development Agency. This aid is aimed at three sectors: agriculture, education and community development. Another way for Canada to have closer ties is to increase its participation in regional institutions and organizations, such as the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences. Also, the department has appointed an official whose function will be to explain our agricultural research programs to the international organizations concerned.

Agriculture Canada is aware of its responsibilities in the face of the world food situation, and it is our farmers who are producing the foodstuff that Canada gives to developing countries. It is the officials of this department, be they agronomists, veterinarians or researchers, who support them, and the Department of Agriculture attends all international confer-