

caused by hurricanes and floods during that time. On June 3, Bob Ogle (NDP, Saskatoon East) appealed to the House of Commons to a support motion to render emergency assistance to these countries, having "thousands homeless and without food and clean water." Canada committed \$220,000 in relief to these countries through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) on June 9 and a further \$40,000 to Honduras July 2 because "reports indicated that damage was more severe than originally reported" (CIDA press release, July 2). (See this issue, BILATERAL — Honduras.)

During June and July, Canada also provided disaster relief to Chad, Sudan, Indonesia, Paraguay and Tanzania through CIDA. (Also this issue, POLICY — Foreign; Israeli Invasion of Lebanon.)

Fish Donations

In an attempt to relieve the economic pressure on some small fishermen in eastern Canada, the Fisheries Prices Support Board will buy \$2,500,000 worth of canned mackerel from Atlantic and Quebec processors, Fisheries Minister Roméo LeBlanc announced June 16. The mackerel, which has little market in Canada, will be donated through CIDA and the World Food Program to developing countries, mainly in South America (Fisheries and Oceans press release, June 16).

Criticism of Foreign Aid

Progressive Conservative Members of Parliament called on the government to review its foreign aid policies several times during July. Ron Stewart (PC, Simcoe South) asked Finance Minister MacEachen to eliminate all foreign aid outside of humanitarian and emergency relief "until such time as we Canadians can put our own house in order." Mr. Stewart cited examples of what he called "loans, grants and gifts to communist-leaning nations." Mr. MacEachen rejected Mr. Stewart's request.

Again on July 12, the government was asked to "justify the need for individual projects, report full disclosure of intended spending projects to Parliament and . . . embark on a review of all aid programs in order to weed out dubious ventures" by Gordon Towers (PC, Red Deer). On July 19 Mr. Stewart asked for a debate on the operations and accountability of the Canadian International Development Agency, which was accused of mismanaging a project in Haiti. Treasury Board President Donald Johnston replied that Mr. Stewart's views "have been very negative in terms of foreign aid programs, which I suspect are not shared, frankly, by many other members of his party." Mr. Johnston assured Mr. Stewart that management questions in CIDA are looked at on an ongoing basis by the Treasury Board.

The same day, NDP member Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands) had presented a motion, which was rejected, that the government restore \$175 million for foreign aid it had "slashed" with the June 28 budget.

For the Record

(supplied by External Affairs Canada)

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