

responsibility. Leaders must have the foresight and wisdom -- not only to deal with recurrent emergencies but to lead their people to solve the central problem of our time.

The dimensions of the world food crisis may not strike the public as being as dramatic as the threat of war. The average citizen, saturated with statistical data, finds it hard to become excited about things which may happen in 50, ten or even five years' time. But hunger and its companion ills cannot be ignored. They are breeding, today, the crises and conflicts that could face each one of us tomorrow.

A continued imbalance between the affluent societies and those who never have enough to eat places great strains on a world already subject to dangerous pressures. If we are to ease those strains, we must act decisively and wisely before present opportunities are lost.

In Canada, we are preparing ourselves for the role which we must play as a great agricultural nation. We have made major contributions to the world's food shortages -- we gave more than \$100 million in wheat last year and pledged ten per cent of the resources of the World Food Programme.

This year we have some 60 agricultural advisers abroad in 17 countries -- practical men, applying themselves to practical problems. They are developing new rust-resistant strains of wheat in Kenya; helping to fight rinderpest disease in West and Central Africa; to establish new pasture-land in Korea and new agricultural education facilities in Thailand. Other Canadians, sponsored by non-governmental organizations, are helping to drill for water in the famine-stricken areas of India and are taking part in the Asian drive against food losses through vermin and rot.

Our capital-assistance projects bearing on agricultural or fisheries development in 20 countries total almost \$15 million. Apart from our food-aid programme, we plan to ship overseas in 1967 and 1968 more than \$22-million worth of fertilizer and fertilizer components.

But we know that this is only a part answer to the long-term problems of agricultural insufficiency. There is much more to be done.

In concert with others, we must provide the schools and cultural institutions that make rural life rewarding for young men and women with ambition and spirit. We must make sure that when the land is ready, machinery, fertilizer, seed and stock are available -- that techniques and skills are transferred in time.

We must go further. In co-operation with others we hope to achieve advances in international commodity-price agreements and the arrangement of markets to provide improved access for the primary products of less-developed nations. The individual farmer must have the assurance of a reasonable return on his industry and investment.

Our solemn duty is to devise ways and means by which the bread of this world can be put into the mouths of its people. To this task all human endeavour must be applied, for, if we fail, all our endeavour will be pointless.