

Indonesia and Egypt — countries which belong to neither the Commonwealth nor to Francophone groups.

In more recent years, Commonwealth countries have received a declining proportion of Canadian aid, although the over-all level of aid provided has more than offset this. In 1979, Canada provided bilateral development assistance (including food aid) to Commonwealth countries to a total of more than \$236 million — or 36 per cent of all of Canada's official development assistance.

In addition to bilateral assistance, Commonwealth multilateral agencies received some \$10.4 million in 1979. The bulk of this went to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, but amounts were also provided to the Commonwealth Zimbabwe Scholarship Plan, the Commonwealth Legal Advisory Service, the Commonwealth Foundation and the Commonwealth Youth Program.

Within recent weeks, the government of Canada has embarked on an effort to increase the funds it will make available for development assistance. As you know, since 1978 the proportion of our gross national product allocated for assistance had declined. That trend has now been reversed, and we have set a goal of .5 per cent of GNP for development assistance by the middle of this decade, rising to .7 by the end of the decade. This, of course, will result in increased benefits to Commonwealth countries.

It is no secret that the provision of higher levels of official assistance to developing countries does not always receive universal acceptance in Canada. As with most developed countries at the present time, we face a number of short-term political and economic difficulties. Too many people have come to view international development as a matter of charity, rather than recognizing the interdependent nature of today's world. Too many of us have ignored the fact that there cannot be real stability and security in a world in which so many nations remain dangerously vulnerable to economic uncertainty and unable to meet the development aspirations of their people. In brief, as I pointed out at the Special Session of the General Assembly in August, we would delude ourselves if we believed we realistically had other options. To attempt to preserve entrenched privilege is by far the costliest approach in anything but the shortest term, compounding our problems for the future

and resulting in further insecurity and instability.

The resolution of some of these difficulties lies also with some of the developing countries themselves. It is difficult to generate support in developed countries for increased aid when some developing countries have so far failed to build structures and develop programs which ensure that there will be more social justice resulting when the time comes to distribute the benefits of international aid.

Key role

But in meeting both of these major objectives — gaining more sensitized public support for increased aid and achieving a higher level of social justice in developing countries — the Commonwealth can play a key institutional role, a role that the heads of government of Commonwealth countries have recognized for some years. For example, the 1979 meeting of heads of government resulted in quite explicit statements about the validity of these goals, as well as the over-all goals necessary for a more just economic order. It is particularly interesting that many of the points of agreement at that meeting paralleled the findings of the Brandt Commission. Some of the key points emerging from the 1979 Commonwealth meeting strike a very familiar echo. For example:

- A recognition that the persistence of mass poverty further highlighted the urgent need for a more rational and equitable economic order.

- The efficient deployment of global resources, providing an equal opportunity for all countries to participate, would require acceptance by all of structural change and the adoption of policies to make such changes possible and to improve prospects for global economic growth, the restraint of inflation and the fuller employment of human and material resources.

- The necessity of improving public understanding of the need for change in the countries participating in the interdependent international system.

- The need for developed Commonwealth countries to recognize the importance of increased and stable flows of aid, finance and investment in developing countries.

We could continue much longer with the list. The point is, however, that the emerging awareness in the world for new economic policies and structures which can make more equitable sharing of the

world's resources possible has been recognized for some time by the Commonwealth as an institution. Canada, for its part, will continue to use the Commonwealth — with the United Nations' organizations and other appropriate international fora — as an instrument to achieve these goals.

As some of you perhaps know, considerable disappointment has been expressed over the failure of the recent Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on North-South issues to meet its objectives. I personally, am still hopeful that with ingenuity and genuine goodwill we can still find our way around the differences which prevail.

Canadian initiatives

I have said that Canada will continue to utilize, with other nations, I hope, the United Nations' system. But we will also look to other instrumentalities to achieve consensus on useful approaches. For example, at the Special Session of the United Nations, I announced our government's intention to establish a Futures Secretariat under the Canadian International Development Agency. Its role will be to initiate and support activities in Canada which will inform our people and sensitize them to the importance of understanding international development issues. This secretariat will receive the major part of its support from the government, but we hope that it will also be supported by the business community, universities, professional institutions and voluntary associations, whose co-operation is vital to its success.

In addition, we intend to actively support other initiatives in strengthening the North-South dialogue. The Brandt Commission Report proposed the convening of a mini-summit meeting of developed and developing countries to focus attention on the most pressing issues — an initiative in which we will participate fully. We also intend to work to ensure that North-South issues are given a major priority on the agenda of the next summit meeting of the most industrialized nations — a meeting of heads of government which Canada will host in 1981.

Finally, at the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Canberra, Australia next year we intend to do all in our power to make it the focus of attention — particularly given the presence of leaders of both developed and developing countries....