

current project in Venezuela enables the University of Venezuela to evaluate a simplified-medicine program in rural areas. Some dozen other projects involve Venezuela in such diverse fields as low-cost housing, use of educational technology, forestry research and rural-urban migration.

The IDRC is intended to complement Canada's governmental institution for foreign economic assistance, the Canadian International Development Agency.

Canadian interest in Latin America is by no means restricted to Government activities. I am pleased, as I know you are, Mr. President, that at this very moment the Canadian Association for Latin America, an organization devoted to strengthening the links of business and other segments of the private sector, is holding its fifth annual conference here in Caracas. I cannot understate my enthusiasm for this event. A major source of the economic strength of Canada is derived from the business community. We count on this community, as you do, to play a vital role in the transfer of technology and other skills so necessary to permit the transformation of developing societies into viable members of the post-industrial age.

That task is one part of one of the most important efforts ever undertaken by the international community -- the adjustment of our economic order in order to permit an equitable sharing of benefits. This new order will not come into being without a mighty struggle. The struggle need not be marked by confrontation between countries, however. The confrontation that exists, and against which our efforts should be directed, is a confrontation with want, with disparity, with unfairness. In that struggle, I assure you of the commitment of the Canadian Government.

Canadians have long been familiar with economic disparities within their own country. The difference in *per capita* income varies several-fold from the richest regions of Canada to the poorest. Very sophisticated and very vigorous schemes have been introduced to provide for the transfer of funds from one region to another, and to provide incentive to industry to undertake new projects in depressed areas. We have gained much experience with these schemes, Mr. President, and some success. Our problems are derived not from the unwillingness of Canadians to contribute to the betterment of their less-fortunate neighbours but from the nature of Canada itself.

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