

TIMES WHAT THEY DID THIRTY YEARS AGO FOR A STEADILY DECLINING PROPORTION OF TOTAL CONSUMER EXPENDITURES. I SEE US SHARING THIS KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE GENEROUSLY THROUGH A BROAD RANGE OF PROGRAMS AND ASSISTANCE PROJECTS THAT INVOLVE MY DEPARTMENT AND ARE CARRIED OUT BY CIDA, THE IDRC AND NUMEROUS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

THIS STRONG PRODUCTIVE BASE HAS BEEN DEVELOPED IN RESPONSE TO A REAL NEED. THE GRAIN TRADE EXPANDED TREMENDOUSLY THROUGHOUT THE LAST DECADE IN RESPONSE TO POPULATION INCREASES AND HIGHER STANDARDS OF LIVING. DESPITE A PERIOD OF GLOBAL LOW ECONOMIC GROWTH OR RECESSION, HIGH INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT AND BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS DIFFICULTIES; ALL PROJECTIONS FOR THE NEXT TWO DECADES POINT TO CONTINUED GROWTH IN DEMAND AND SUPPLY CONSTRAINTS IN MANY AREAS.

IN RESPONSE, THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT IMPROVEMENTS IN CANADA'S PRODUCTION CAPABILITIES. MR. WHELAN HAS ANNOUNCED THE GOVERNMENT'S AGRI-FOOD STRATEGY, WHICH IS BASED ON A TWO-THIRDS INCREASE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION BY THE YEAR 2000. THE ANNOUNCED GRAIN EXPORT TARGETS OF 30 MILLION TONNES IN 1985 AND 36 MILLION IN 1990 IMPLICITLY CALL FOR A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN DOMESTIC GRAIN PRODUCTION, PARTICULARLY IN THE WEST. THIS MAJOR INCREASE IN OUR PRODUCTION WILL PLAY A SIGNIFICANT PART IN OUR ABILITY TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF GLOBAL FOOD PROBLEMS IN THE 1980s AND 90s.

IMPROVING WORLD FOOD SECURITY IS ONE OF THE IMPORTANT OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY, PARTICULARLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE. I MENTIONED EARLIER THE MAJOR PRODUCTION CHALLENGE FACING US AND SOME OF THE THINGS BEING DONE IN CANADA TO DEVELOP OUR PRODUCTION CAPABILITY TO RESPOND TO GLOBAL NEEDS. IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT THE WORLD NOW