

amongst the other nations with which we are associated in the world community if we were unwilling to bear our share of our collective responsibilities. Development assistance is one of the ways in which we can meet these responsibilities.

It is also becoming increasingly apparent that many of the problems mankind is facing cannot be dealt with on a purely national basis and require the establishment of a variety of international mechanisms and institutions. This international "system" has made substantial progress since the end of the Second World War with the creation of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies and the establishment of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA). The transfer of resources to the less-developed nations is one of the most important functions of this international system and one of the most effective means of improving and strengthening it. The growing pressures of population growth, environmental problems, technological change and the demands of an increasingly interdependent international economy all point to the need for the continued evolution of this international system. Support for development assistance can make an important contribution to this process.

Assistance to the less-developed nations serves Canada's interest in some other and more immediate respects. It is an important and integral part of the general conduct of Canada's external relations, particularly with the developing countries. It provides an initial source of financing for export of Canadian goods and services to the less-developed nations and provides Canadians with the kind of knowledge and experience which help support the expansion of Canadian commercial interest overseas. Successful economic development in the less-advanced countries will assist in the expansion of world trade as a whole and provide a growing market for Canadian goods and services.

By providing an outward-looking expression of the bilingual character of Canada, our development assistance role also helps contribute to our sense of internal unity and purpose.

The Government believes that a firm commitment to the support of international development is one of the most constructive ways in which Canada can participate in the international community in the coming decades. Such a commitment is directly relevant to the major problems and potentialities of our time. It reflects and reinforces the values, concerns and objectives of Canadian society. It is consistent with the international character of Canadian interests and will comprise an important part of