

Canada's political influence in the country or region are also affirmed as important principles in Canadian foreign policy. Fourth, Canada's aid program should include readiness to respond to the survival needs of peoples facing famine or disaster. Fifth, the aid program should be continuously assessed and modified to ensure a meaningful contribution to the long run well-being of those people in the recipient countries.

That is what our party stands for, and these are the broad criteria we will use to establish how far the government will move in implementing its own response which was tabled today.

I will take a moment to mention what I consider to be the main recommendations in the report of the parliamentary task force on North-South relations, to which the government has responded today. There are 38 recommendations. Time does not permit me to go through them all. I shall just mention what I consider to be the six principal recommendations in what the government has said. The following are what I consider to be the most important recommendations.

The first is a commitment that Canada's official development assistance be raised to 0.7 per cent of the gross national product by the year 1990. The government responded today that it will take that recommendation into account, but it has not made a commitment. I remind hon. members that our party has made such a commitment.

The second is that the World Bank double its gearing ratio in incremental stages. That is a mechanism now being planned within the World Bank. The new president of the World Bank has given approval to steps to move in that direction. The North-South task force report stated that it would enable the World Bank to double its gearing ratio yet again. The World Bank has doubled its capitalization in recent months from \$40 billion to \$80 billion by doubling the gearing ratio under which it lends money to developing nations. This would mean a quadrupling from where the World Bank has been operating presently, that is to say, from \$40 billion to \$160 billion. The government said that would be inferior, but it recognized the need for further exploration. I believe the government should have moved on that recommendation.

The third recommendation I would mention is that the International Monetary Fund show greater responsiveness to the externally caused debt situation in the least developed countries. I have mentioned the African experience of the oil importing countries which are running up horrendous deficits as a result of conditions over which they have no control. The government responded today that the current IMF measures indicate a willingness to respond and that Canada would support further evolution. I believe that is not a sufficiently strong enough recommendation for Canada to give some leadership in the North-South dialogue. I say to you, sir, that the North-South summit in Mexico will succeed or fail on the single issue of whether or not a mechanism is found to repair the horrendous debt of the least developed countries as a result of oil importation.

North-South Relations

Fourth, we recommended that a greater voting strength be given to OPEC in the international financial institutions. How can you expect OPEC to recycle huge surpluses of money if they do not have a stronger share in the voting of the World Bank and the IMF? The government said it agreed with this recommendation and encouraged a higher profile in the World Bank affiliate for the OPEC nations. That is a good response. I wish it were stronger, but at least the government has responded affirmatively.

Fifth, we recommended that Canada support the World Bank energy affiliate by which under a new concept a new mechanism would be established making it possible to go into developing countries to find oil and gas for them so as to reduce the importation of energy. The government's response to that recommendation is the strongest of any response it has given to any recommendation. The government said it would continue to support the concept and do whatever it could to persuade OPEC and the north of the advantages of the World Bank affiliate. I commend the government for that strong response. I wish the rest of the responses today had been as strong as the one enunciated in that paragraph.

Sixth, we recommended that the government instigate a major public inquiry of the industrial sectors likely to be at long-range disadvantage. The government has rejected that inquiry saying that the information about industrial adjustments, for instance in the textile industry, is already known to the government. I say it is not known to the Canadian people, and we need a sense of direction.

If I had to summarize the direction of the North-South task force report, it would be to plead that the Canadian people become much more knowledgeable and involved—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please.

Mr. Roche: Mr. Speaker, I could finish my speech if I were granted two minutes.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): The hon. member may finish his speech only if there is unanimous consent.

Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Roche: Mr. Speaker, I thank hon. members for their courtesy.

I believe the government has made a mistake in rejecting the recommendation for 1 per cent of official development assistance to be focused on development education in Canada. I believe that if, as we heard earlier today, we are going to influence the Hamilton steel worker, the Regina housewife and millions of Canadians about what this whole multi-dimensional complex North-South issue is all about, we must do a better educational job.

● (1800)

I am sorry that the government did not give a commitment to a new five-year strategy for international development. I