

We are also very much aware of the potential opening up for Canadian exporters in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. During my visit there last fall, I was able to observe at first hand the winds of change which are stirring, and in particular to note the more flexible and decentralized techniques of economic management which are being adopted. Canadians must be alive to the opportunities this will present for more diversified trade, in addition to our present exports of grain and flour. We must be prepared to adapt our normal trading techniques if we are adequately to develop markets for our products in these state-trading countries.

In speaking of the challenge of economic development, I have referred to the vital role which the Federal Government is called on to play in the fields of foreign investment and international trade policy. But economic development within Canada is not in itself sufficient; we must also be concerned with economic development on an international scale.

Unless we can, as a nation, dedicate ourselves to translating into reality throughout the world the economic well-being which we consider essential within our frontier, our own prosperity will remain vulnerable. Unless we recognize the principle of redistribution of wealth which is the basis of Canadian social values, our own social and cultural progress may be imperilled. Unless we place at the disposal of the less-developed countries some of the wealth of human and material resources which we possess, our own security cannot be assured.

It is my personal conviction, which has been strengthened by years of experience in the field of foreign affairs, that aid constitutes one of the best and most constructive instruments we have in our quest for international peace and stability. Self-interest dictates that we should maximize our aid effort and improve the quality of our aid to the greatest possible extent.

It so happens that, as we increase and improve Canadian aid, which is usually provided in the form of Canadian goods and services, we are at the same time making an increasing contribution to agricultural, industrial and technological development in Canada. This is only natural, for aid is a co-operative endeavour and its success depends on the availability in developed countries of highly-qualified human resources, and of a highly-developed industrial potential.

Nevertheless, the immediate effect which aid has on our economic well-being is but a marginal, if important, aspect of the question. As the Minister responsible for external aid, I am proud of the fact - verified every day from the large number of verbal and written testimonies I receive - that it is humanitarian motives and an ingrained sense of social justice which are at the root of the widespread support which Canadians in all walks of life give to the national aid effort.