

and a combination of complementary actions in the national and international spheres to restore the situation: domestic measures to support and strengthen the fishing industry and international measures to acquire a 200-mile fishing zone and re-create entirely the set of bilateral and multilateral agreements which regulate access to the zone by foreign fleets. The result has been in a relatively short space of time to restore the health of the industry. In every one of the Atlantic provinces, fishing is once again an economic leader. The landed value of the catch is at a record high, fishermen's income has risen by 50% in real terms in a few years and Canada has become the world's leading fish exporter. An evaluation of fisheries policies and programmes in 1979 would suggest that the resources expended, in Canada and abroad, to produce these results, have been justified. How do we know this? We judge by the balance sheet of the fishing industry. Once again, there is a bottom line, and it tells us our policies are working.

25. But consider a more ambiguous case, aid policy. The conceptual difficulties are immediately seen to be greater. A quantitative target for official aid flows can be, and has been, set: at the moment, it is 0.7% of GNP. In practice, this target, which is subscribed to by Canada and the other OECD countries, is very much a matter for the long-term. Progress toward reaching the target is uneven. On present performance, it will be years yet before Canada gets there. Meanwhile, the intellectual foundations of the GNP target are open to question; indeed, Canada questioned the validity of the concept for years before finally accepting it. For all that, Canada now accepts the target and agrees that it has some validity as a measure of performance and a basis for international comparison.

26. The effect of adopting the target is to throw up increasing sums of money each year for aid purposes; this is true even in the current period of austerity. How can we be sure that these increasing sums serve their intended purpose? The answer is by no means clear. For example: the largest single aid programme Canada has ever sponsored in the almost 30-year history of official development assistance was the nuclear co-operation programme with India. Over a period of 20 years, this program achieved its objective. Through a major transfer of advanced technology, paid for by the Canadian taxpayer, Canada made a fundamental contribution to the economic development of a large, poor, energy-short country. Yet the price - unintended and unwanted by Canada - was to place India on the margin of acquiring a military nuclear capacity. The programme thereby thwarted one of the fundamental objectives of Canadian foreign policy, which is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.