

The statistics of the world food crisis read like a gospel of despair. We have been told that more lives will be lost through starvation in the next ten years than in all the wars of history. More than one-fifth of the 2,200 million inhabitants of the developing countries are hungry and more than half suffer from malnutrition. Grain stocks, once considered excessive in certain major exporting countries such as Canada, have been drawn down drastically in the past five years and are now deemed to be at minimal levels. If present trends are not altered, the 13 developing countries with major cereals shortages could experience a cereals deficit of as much as 30 million tons a year by the mid-1970s. These nations, already suffering chronic balance-of-payments deficits, might have to spend \$7.5 billion in foreign exchange in 1975 to import foodstuffs, with a consequent slowing-down in significant areas of economic development.

Statistical surveys, based upon total food produced per person, suggest that there is no world-wide shortage of food in terms of calories or protein at the moment. But in the developing countries, where two-thirds of the world's people live, there is overwhelming evidence of undernutrition and malnutrition.

The world's increasingly serious nutritional problem arises from the uneven distribution of the food supply among countries, within countries and among families with different levels of income.

The conclusion is inescapable. The deficiency is one of human organization. The people of our world need leadership to escape from the vicious bonds of hunger.

We have the land. With imaginative schemes of irrigation and flood control, with the application of fertilizer and the latest advances in technology, millions of acres can be brought into fruitful production. We have limitless possibilities for technical advance -- in developing the immense resources of the sea, new cereal strains, herds and flocks that give more meat, more milk. We have the human resources -- abundant human resources. Each year, for example, thousands of overseas students in our Canadian universities demonstrate their ability and their determination to apply their broader knowledge to the problems of their native lands. Given the capital and the tools, there is no doubt that they can do the job. For the first time in history we have the potential to solve this age-old problem. But we have to generate the will to use those skills to the benefit of mankind.

We are told that social changes are required but that these must evolve gradually. We know that centuries-old systems of land use do not always produce the greatest benefit from the land but that old methods of farming, which have served generations, cannot be altered overnight to suit the dictates of an alien science.

But surely, in facing the disastrous consequences of continued hunger, more devastating in its effect than the mushroom cloud of a nuclear explosion, surely we must become impatient, surely we must demand an end to the apathy which acts as a brake on human progress.

Leadership is the essential ingredient. Only men and women charged with the urgency of the situation can give the inspiration and direction which will lead us away from hunger and sickness to plenty and health. Those not prepared to meet the challenge of development are not fit to be in positions of