
something about Canada's energy initiatives, both national and international.

National energy program

The Canadian government has begun to implement a national energy program, designed in our own interest and the interest of other countries, to eliminate net oil import requirements by 1990. We will, of course, continue to be a net exporter of other forms of energy — gas, coal, uranium and electricity. We have also taken a hard look at our international development policies, with a view of shifting more of our effort toward meeting the energy needs of developing countries.

Within our over-all commitment to raise our official development assistance to .5 per cent of our gross national product by 1985, and to make our best effort to reach .7 per cent by 1990, we have decided to concentrate our effort in three priority sectors: energy, agriculture, and the development of human resources.

The energy-related component of our bilateral assistance has consistently been close to 25 per cent — one of the highest percentages among donor countries. As I have said, the amount of that assistance will grow even further in the next five years, during which period Canada will devote more than \$1 billion to energy-related development projects.

Contrast in energy sources

Furthermore, Canada wishes to support the specific goals of this conference, and for very good reasons. In the industrialized world, some 90 per cent of energy is produced from non-renewable resources — coal, oil, natural gas, and uranium. In contrast, the developing countries derive less than 50 per cent of their energy from such sources, and that is used largely in industrial and urban areas, involving a minority of the population. Two-and-one-half billion of the world's poorest people, the great majority of whom live in rural areas, depend for almost all of their energy needs upon wood, agricultural residues, and dung — the so-called non-commercial fuels.

Energy-related research in and for the developing countries therefore presents a considerable challenge. It is also true that the great bulk of energy-related research is located within the industrialized countries, and is directed toward their needs. There is, for instance, little work being done which has any immediate application to the small scale, rural oriented needs of the developing countries. And because renewable energy technology is a recent and still emerging field of activity, many questions remain unanswered about its potential uses in developing countries. An immense amount of work is required on technologies appropriate for use in the poorest countries.

Support for energy research

Therefore, one of the new initiatives which the government of Canada is undertaking, and which I am announcing here today, involves a \$10 million increase in our support for energy research related to developing countries. We are making that amount available to Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) so that it can undertake an intensified program in this field.

The IDRC would conduct its research largely in developing countries themselves, thus helping those countries to better assess their own options. The goal would be to co-operate with the governments of those countries in the development of tech-