

I should perhaps add that although my delegation recognizes the prerogative -- even the duty -- of this Committee to examine trade and commodity problems, and to offer advice and produce recommendations on these subjects, we believe nonetheless that detailed consideration of these problems and the working out of concrete solutions must necessarily be left to the GATT, the CICT and other international organizations which have a recognized competence in these fields.

Economic Aid Programmes

Discussion of the trade problems of less-developed countries leads one logically to a consideration of international economic aid programmes. In this Committee we are naturally concerned mainly with multilateral forms of aid. But is obviously just as impractical to discuss any one of the many forms of economic aid in isolation as it would be to conduct an aid programme without reference to parallel programmes. I therefore intend to deal with some of the issues confronting us in the vital field of assistance for economic development without drawing distinctions between programmes which, though different in form, are intended to accomplish the same end.

It is our delegation's firm conviction that to be genuinely effective any aid programme must be freely agreed upon between the recipient and the donor, each having an equal voice; and that projects should originate with a specific request of the potential recipient. Faced as we are with many varying needs of the utmost urgency, our response must be flexible and adaptable.

Speaking for a country which has accepted and will continue to accept its obligations to assist in the economic development of less-developed countries to the fullest extent of its capabilities by participating in both multilateral and bilateral aid programmes, we believe that it is desirable that both kinds of programme should continue to be available. It is our experience that both types are welcome to recipient countries, provided they are freely offered and freely accepted. We were pleased to hear the observations of the distinguished delegate of Pakistan on October 14 which, I think, confirmed this view. It is imperative that every means at our disposal, national and international, public and private, be brought to bear. I am sure that there can be no disagreement with this. A full mobilization of the resources available to us, applied in a flexible manner, but not dispersed through agencies duplicating each other, must be our aim.

For this reason, Canadian delegations, over a period of years, have emphasized the urgency and the need for close co-ordination of all the varied aid programmes in effect. This co-ordination should take place at every stage when it is conducive to extraction of maximum value from the funds available. It has always seemed to my delegation that perhaps the most important stage is that of discussion in the national capital of the receiving country itself. National development plans are, of course, the framework within which co-ordination must take place.

To be effective, co-ordination must also include some division of function between programmes if wasteful duplication, even conflict, is to be avoided. The discussions in this Committee of the work of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, which provides experts and teaching facilities, and of the Special Fund which provides assistance in preparing the ground for capital investment, illustrate the benefits which can result from a division of function, coupled with co-ordination within the United Nations framework. It is our hope that this process can be continued and developed.