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transfers from rich to poor countries, on gradual reforms of world economic institutions, deliberately introduced to bridge the gap and redress the balance between one group and the other. In matter of details, we expect some of our assumptions to be superseded by events. Consequently, in unveiling this international development strategy, we are not laying down the tablets of the law, come what may in the next five years. CIDA experts and other Government officials will continue to monitor the world situation, be it with respect to food production, terms of trade, industrialization, or foreign-exchange earnings and indebtedness. The Cabinet will stand ready to alter, even as early as 1976, the thrust of Canada's international development policy, if new circumstances warrant it.

For this policy document was not conceived in a vacuum. As you will know, it has been in the works for quite some time; its drafting has been enlightened by a wide-ranging debate on developing assistance; and a number of recent Canadian initiatives have been influenced by these strategic orientations even before these were made public. For example, coming after the pledges we made to the Rome Food Conference and Canada's growing involvement in renewed international efforts to dispel, once and for all, the threat of famine in the world, the emphasis we intend to place in the next five years on food production and rural development will not come as a surprise to you; but this should not detract from its significance.

I turn now to other features of the new strategy. In international development as in other fields, the attraction of novelty is such that the elements of continuity, in a policy review such as this, tend to be taken for granted. Yet what is retained of past policies is often at least as important as what is changed or added to these. Consequently, I thought it appropriate to point out that the Canadian Government remains committed to the United Nations target for official development assistance of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product and to reach this goal through gradual increases in annual appropriations. Secondly, the terms of Canadian assistance will retain in the future the very high degree of "concessionality" that has become, to a very real extent, the trade-mark of Canada in this field. At a time when some donors, faced with economic difficulties that Canadians also experience, are curbing their aid programs and shifting towards more commercially-attractive forms of assistance, these renewed commitments, I should think, are worthy of some notice. I also draw your attention to the continuing Canadian support that is pledged in the document for regional co-operation among developing countries, as well as research institutions and programs focusing on major development issues and programs. Similarly, we have decided not only to maintain but to increase the substantial food-aid component in our development-assistance effort and to bear the

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