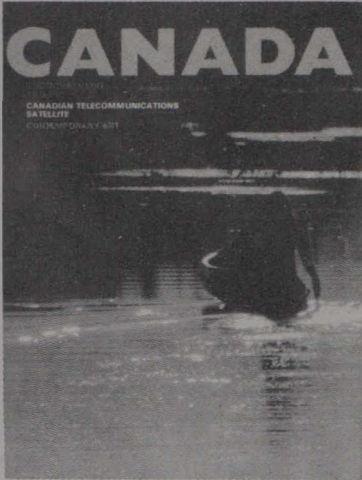


# CANADA

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 1



*COVER : Our cover photo is taken from an exhibition of photographs depicting Canada that was held in New Delhi. The photographs were in colour and gave viewers a chance to see the natural beauties of Canada (More photographs on pages 10 and 11). On our back cover we have an artist's conception of the Canadian telecommunications satellite (story on page 5)*

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## EXPANDING WORLD

### FOOD PRODUCTION

The Minister of Agriculture, Eugene F. Whelan, addressed the Eighteenth Session of the Food And Agriculture Conference in Rome on November 11. He spoke of the priorities and incentives needed if progress is to be made in expanding world agricultural production. Excerpts from Mr. Whelan's address:

The current food situation is somewhat better than it was a year ago, but far from satisfactory. Much of this short-run gain is due to improved weather conditions in North America and in some of the developing countries. It is offset to some degree by very low grain production in other areas. But we have no reason to be overly optimistic.

Over the next five years, the need for substantive increased food production in the developed countries will be of much greater importance for world food supplies than was thought at the beginning of the 1970s. To solve the food problem, developing countries and the FAO must give high priority to agricultural and fisheries development and adopt policies which give adequate incentive to agricultural producers if real progress is to be made.

How do we cope with problems of expanding agricultural production? It is very disturbing to find that 30 years after the Second World War we are still faced with a major food problem. Despite the gains in technology, despite the technical efforts of the United Nations specialized agencies, we have more instead of fewer hungry people.

A top priority in the interests of all countries is to ensure the vigour of the world economy. This requires, from our standpoint, an efficient agriculture producing enough food for all, which can't be done without providing a reasonable livelihood to the farmers of the world. We know that without farmers, without the tools of production, and without necessary incentives, food production will fall short of our growing needs.

Canada has responded to the interests of developing countries in several areas, including commodity stabilization, trade liberalization, investment and natural resources, technology for development, and agriculture and rural development. In fact, not only have we expanded our total aid program, we have restructured it towards agricultural and rural development.

Through our stockholding practices and our food and development aid programs, we have contributed substantially to world food security. At the same time, we are participating in discussions and strongly support meaningful negotiations which would enhance food security by means of international commitments affecting production, trade and aid in grains.

Canada has stated at the Seventh Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly that we are ready to examine positively the idea of negotiating arrangements for a wide range of products. We are prepared to consider the use of buffer stocks or other types of stockholding as a way of providing market stability. But, I add one word of caution. We are not prepared to support any commodity agreements that include economic discrimination against consumers or producers.

We understand the desire of developing countries to expand local food processing industries, and we will work in the direction of eliminating restrictions that may hinder this development.

In respect to agriculture and rural development, Canada has made an important contribution internationally. We have placed increased emphasis on an integrated approach to agriculture and rural development as a means of helping developing countries solve the fundamental problems of farming and fisheries production, rural depopulation and regional disparities. We also recognize the importance of concentrating development programs on small farmers and fishermen.

Canada has adhered to the Undertaking On World Food Security; we are participating in the Global Information System; and are exploring with other countries the possibility of establishing an International Grain Stockholding Scheme.

Canada is committed to providing one million tons of food grains as food aid annually for three years. This was a doubling of the Canadian obligations undertaken in the Food Aid Convention. Food aid is now approaching a value more than a quarter of total development expenditure per year.