Canadian International Development Agency annual report published

Canadian official development assistance to developing countries in 1978-79 rose by 10 per cent over the previous fiscal year's to $1.6 billion, according to the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) 1978-79 report.

The report notes that Canada and other industrialized countries have reached a turning point in international co-operation, with the approach of 1980 signalling the end of the United Nations second development decade.

There are still 800 million people living in absolute poverty and the emphasis on providing aid to the poorest people in the poorest countries will remain a constant in relations between the industrialized and developing countries, says the report.

However, certain developing countries have made significant progress but have not made the transition to modern societies, it says. Canada will provide new forms of co-operation to these emerging middle-income countries.

Bilateral (direct government-to-government) assistance accounted for the largest share of CIDA's 1978 budget, with total budget reaching $559.35 million. Asian countries received 41 per cent followed by Francophone Africa with 23 per cent, Commonwealth Africa with 19 per cent, and Latin America and the Caribbean with 15 per cent.

Canada provided $490.91 million to support about 65 programs of multilateral organizations such as UN agencies, international development research institutions, the World Bank and regional development banks.

Canadian and international non-governmental organizations received $70.79 million in support from CIDA and provincial governments. The remaining funds (about $44 million) were used to support the International Development Research Centre, and for emergency relief, scholarship programs and miscellaneous programs.

Limited quantities of the report are available free of charge from the Public Affairs Division, CIDA, 200 Promenade du Portage, Hull, Quebec, Canada K1A 0G4.

Head of cultural and technical agency visits

Professor Dankoulodo Dan Dicko, Secretary-General of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation (ACCT), visited Canada from November 12-17, to attend the fourth meeting of the Agency's Special Development Program Committee in Ottawa, November 13 and 14. The meeting, which brought together representatives of the nine member countries was chaired by Martial Asselin, Minister of State for the Canadian International Development Agency.

The Special Development Program, which is the ACCT's counterpart of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, was set up in December 1977 on Canada's initiative and is supported by voluntary contributions from 18 member states. Canada has provided $2 million and Quebec another $100,000 to the multilateral program since its inception.

The Secretary-General discussed with Senator Asselin the next General Conference of the ACCT to be held in Lomé, Togo, December 12-14. Mr. Dan Dicko also visited Quebec City and Fredericton to meet with government officials of Quebec and New Brunswick, which have participating government status in the ACCT.

Gas and oil prices hiked

The price of natural gas and heavy crude oils for export to the United States were increased at the beginning of November.

The gas increase will generate an additional $725 million income from the gas sales over a full year, said Energy Minister Ray Hnatyshyn.

Current exports to the United States from western Canadian gas fields amount to about one trillion cubic feet a year – less than 3 per cent of total U.S. volume. Export applications awaiting government decision would provide additional gas to U.S. markets, if approved.

The price is being raised to $3.45 U.S. *per* thousand cubic feet from the present $2.80. It was calculated by a formula that ties natural gas export prices to the prevailing world oil price and reflects the rise in oil rates last summer.

Crude oils

The export charge on heavy crude oils sold to the United States has risen by $2 a barrel.

The new charges, which are added to the domestic price, will be $16.26 a barrel for Lloydminster, Viking-Kinsella, and Wainwright blends and $16.70 a barrel for other designated crude oils.

Canada's exports of the heavy crudes have been averaging between 100,000 and 120,000 barrels a day in recent months. The increased export charge will increase federal revenues by about $200,000 a day.

Export charge on light crude oils and condensates remains unchanged at $16.01 a barrel. Net exports of these kinds of preferred oils are being all but eliminated in November and December, to allow Canadian refineries to rebuild dangerously-low oil product stocks in the east.

At the same time, the export charge on middle distillates, such as home heating oil and diesel fuel, has been increased by $1.65 a barrel to $14.75; on motor gasolines by 65 cents a barrel to $13.25; and on heavy fuel oils by 40 cents to $10.

The export charge on partly processed oils has been dropped by 35 cents to $15.15 a barrel.

The increases, according to the federal Energy Department, reflect increases in prices in relevant markets.

Chicken quotas

The Federal Government has set quotas for chicken imports following consultations with the United States, the Canadian market's only significant chicken supplier.

The new annual quotas are 45 million pounds for 1979, 48.5 million pounds for 1980, 52 million pounds for 1981, and thereafter 6.3 per cent of the previous year's Canadian production.

Last year Canada imported almost 60 million pounds of U.S. chicken, or about 7 per cent of Canadian consumption for the remainder of this year.

The restrictions have been imposed to support chicken supply management operations of a recently formed Canadian chicken marketing agency.

The Consumers Association of Canada has objected to the import controls, saying Canadian chicken producers already have significant protection from imports.

Globe and Mail, Bernard Bennell