

International Development Assistance

One - indeed the most established - of the ways of reducing this disparity between rich and poor, between developed and developing is through development assistance. This concept is one that we owe to that first generation of post-war leaders. Novel in 1945, it has since become firmly established as an instrument of international cooperation through the creation of the International Development Association (IDA), U.N.D.P., the regional development banks, and the extensive network of bilateral development assistance programmes.

But the proposals for a new economic order call for a fresh approach to development assistance. Its purpose, scope and character must be altered to fit the new circumstances of the 70's.

Canada's response is contained in a new Strategy for International Development Cooperation for 1975-80, which was published by the Canadian Government yesterday in Ottawa. Let me touch on the main features of our new Strategy which has been shaped to meet these new demands:

- We pledge ourselves to continue and to increase our programmes of development assistance. This year our disbursements will exceed \$900 million and they will grow significantly in the years ahead;
- We reaffirm our determination to achieve the official U.N. target of .7% of our GNP and to move toward it by annual increases in our official development assistance in proportion to GNP;
- We will place major emphasis on fostering economic growth and the evolution of social systems in such a way that they will produce the widest distribution of benefits among the population of developing countries;
- We shall concentrate the bulk of our bilateral assistance on the poorest countries and on the poorest sectors of their economies;