

International Development Research Centre

important and presently missing link in the co-ordination of world international development programs.

It is too early to be specific about the centre's programs, but emphasis will certainly be given to those problems to which Canadian capabilities seem especially applicable. Final decisions on program priorities will be reserved to the centre's board of governors. CIDA and the United Nations Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development have already indicated several possible areas of special interest: the development of new techniques for identifying and evaluating mineral resources, improved methods of preserving food and reducing waste; the development of genetically improved plants of high protein value; the study of some specific aspects of the world population problem; and the development of efficient, labour-intensive industrial techniques.

Most of the problems with which the centre will deal will require co-operative effort by both the physical and social sciences. The very nature of the development process requires that the special skills and perspectives of the engineer, the physicist and the chemist be harmonized with those of the economist, the sociologist and the anthropologist. The centre will be concerned with the application of science and technology to the effort to improve the quality of life, not only the processes of material production.

We should not overlook the important benefits the centre will bring to Canada. The funds provided for its support will be an addition to the funds normally available for Canadian research and development. It will create new opportunities for the use of Canadian human and institutional resources in the field of science and technology. It will help to attract to Canada highly qualified people in various fields, including Canadians who have had to leave Canada to pursue their special interests. It will also help to keep in Canada some who might otherwise leave.

In all its programs, the centre will provide important linkages between Canadian and foreign science and technology, enabling Canadian specialists to obtain international experience which could make a valuable contribution to our own development.

The funds needed to finance the centre's operations and programs will come out of Canada's international development assistance allocations. Within these allocations the

[Mr. Sharp.]

amount of funds made available to the centre will depend upon the specific programs and activities which are developed by the centre's board and management after it is established. The government intends to give priority to this aspect of our international development program and I foresee the allocation of as much as 5 per cent of our total development aid funds to the centre. The government is prepared to allocate a minimum of \$30 million for the administration and programs of the centre over the first five years. About one-third of this would be for the headquarters operations and the remainder for programs to be carried out outside headquarters.

Successful operation of the centre will call for the full co-operation of the Canadian scientific and technological communities and an especially close relationship with Canadian universities. The science secretariat, other departments of the federal government directly concerned with science and technology and the university community, have contributed to the studies leading to the proposal for the establishment of the centre; they will be equally involved in its direction and operation. The proposed legislation provides for this.

I am sure hon. members will agree with me that the passage of the bill to establish the International Development Research Centre of Canada will provide Canada with a unique opportunity to make an exciting and worthwhile contribution to the cause of international development while enlarging the horizons and enriching the experience of Canadian science.

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): First, it is reassuring to know that the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) is reporting on this legislation, in spite of the fact that Bill C-12 leaves parliament in some doubt as to which minister will be assuming responsibility for the new research centre. We in the Official Opposition are happy that the responsibility is to lie with the hon. gentleman. If a more imaginative proposal were to be forthcoming, it might be that authority should rest with a new minister for international development, and perhaps we shall see the establishment of such a post in this country before long.

The original hopes for rapid economic progress in the developing countries have been only partially and spottily achieved. We know this to be a fact, regardless of which party we support. There will, of course, be other opportunities to discuss the uncertain record in this