

Foreign aid (Continued from P. 2)

The Canadian Government's decision of last May to stop the decline in the percentage of ODA to GNP, thus determining the minimum rate of growth in our budget, has improved our ability to plan the management of our cash flow over the next few years. We have completely rebuilt our financial base with the help of Treasury Board and in keeping with the recommendations of the Auditor General.

We have completed a corporate review and will shortly implement some organizational changes which will help tighten the management of programs and projects. This has been a far-reaching exercise, which enabled us to identify CIDA's weaknesses and interface problems and to take remedial action. We are introducing advanced systems of financial reporting and information retrieval. We are developing new and comprehensive evaluation and audit systems.

We have revived the Canadian International Development Board, which is the main body for inter-departmental consultations at deputy minister level on aid programs. We have launched a review of our multilateral aid to evaluate our contributions to international development bodies in terms of Canadian interest. We are at an advanced stage of drafting a new food aid policy for presentation to ministers. We are also reviewing the "Strategy for International Development" adopted in 1975 for the second half of this decade, to determine the extent of its continuing validity for the 1980s.

We are making good progress on the development of new forms of co-operation, including industrial co-operation which we hope shortly to bring past the experimental stage. We shall look closely at what other countries are doing to facilitate the adaptation of their own eco-

nomy to meet the challenge of co-operation with developing countries.

Major aims

In these tasks we are pursuing several major objectives:

- (1) We want better to relate developing countries' needs to Canadian capability. It is a paradox of our times to have idle capacity in industrial countries when there are such pressing needs in developing countries. The nature of our programs should reflect what we can do best. There is already an increasing concentration in our bilateral program on sectors of high Canadian competence, such as agriculture, forestry, water-resources development, transport, communication, energy, resources surveys, technical training, and so on.
- (2) We want to improve our effectiveness and efficiency. This means a sharper definition of our objectives, better evaluation and tighter management. It also means a greater presence on the ground — such complex programs cannot be run by remote control; greater understanding of the development needs of the countries we help; and a determination to resist dispersal of our efforts.
- (3) We want to provide greater opportunity for Canadian private initiative to relate to the development of developing countries. CIDA has pioneered co-operation with NGOs. Provincial governments have been associated with VADA, a voluntary program for food aid and agricultural development. Canadian universities are

showing much interest in participating in research for development. Our industrial co-operation program will be designed to provide more support to business initiative. We intend to contract out to the maximum extent, compatible with a tight control over the expenditure of public funds. The strength of our program will not be measured by the size of a bureaucracy, but by the amount of support it receives from all sectors of Canadian life.

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In conclusion, I would not like to leave you under the impression that the assistance we provide to the Third World is, in the future, to be inspired solely by commercial and selfish consideration. If I have insisted at length on the returns from foreign aid, it is because so little is known about that aspect of our activities that I felt something should be said to set the record straight.

It is my conviction that there exists no fundamental contradiction between the economic interests we serve at home or abroad and our idealism. It is in this light that about one-third of CIDA's expenditures are aimed at providing basic human needs in the poorest parts of the world. This is a kind of obligation that Canada should not refuse — and that Canadians do not want us to ignore. The ability of non-governmental organizations in this country to raise on their own almost \$50 million annually for assistance abroad conveys a very strong political message. And it is being heard.

News briefs

The average fuel economy for all new cars sold in Canada in 1978 is expected to be 39 kilometres/gallon, announced Transport Minister Otto Lang recently. In releasing a preliminary list of fuel economy levels for 1978 passenger cars and light trucks, Mr. Lang said, "The 1977 average was about 36 km/gal. compared to 29 km/gal. in 1974. The advent of smaller, lighter cars has done much to significantly improve the average fuel consumption of Canadian cars."

Supply Minister Jean-Pierre Goyer says he and Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau are actively pressing for a summit meeting of leaders of French-speaking states, a move towards a commonwealth that would exclude Quebec. Mr. Goyer said that because it would deal with international and

not cultural affairs, it was illogical that anyone but the Federal Government should be represented at such a meeting.

Bills making the James Bay land-claims agreement final have been proclaimed by the federal and Quebec governments. The agreement, the first major, modern treaty with Canadian native people, gives 6,500 Cree and 4,200 Inuit in northern Quebec \$255 million over 20 years, ownership of some land and hunting, fishing and trapping rights on large tracts.

The national Conservative Party convention, which concluded November 6, gave Joe Clark a resounding vote of confidence as leader and elected Robert Coates president to replace Michael Meighen. Clark won support from an overwhelming 93.1 per cent of the 1,031 delegates.

Canada Weekly is published by the Information Services Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

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Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiero de Canadá.

Ähnliche Ausgaben dieses Informationsblatts erscheinen auch in deutscher Sprache unter dem Titel Profil Kanada.