

request, on bilateral assistance projects that have recently attracted public attention. These are projects that have been mentioned in the press and in the House. We have tried to set forward the factual information with respect to these projects, and the document ought to be a useful reference point for Members if they wish to examine the officials further on any of these projects that have attracted public attention.

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The CIDA appropriations for 1975-76 referred to your Committee amount to \$712 million, for a program of grants and loans to developing countries and multilateral institutions, to which must be added \$221 million to be drawn against unused appropriation authorities of earlier years.

Disbursements during the coming fiscal year would, therefore, total \$933 million....

Yet few Canadians would seriously suggest that we are doing too much for developing countries, I have been astonished and most encouraged, since I took over this job, at the intense interest and concern that the Canadian public shows -- notably through the mail I receive --, in the formulation of Canadian policy on aid matters. Most are aware of the dismal economic conditions imposed on more than half of the world's population by bad crops, costly food imports, high energy costs, declining exports of raw materials and ensuing balance-of-payments problems. Canadians hardly need to be convinced that, in spite of their own economic troubles, industrialized donors should increase the flow of development assistance to developing countries.

So the real question is: Are we doing our share? Are Canadians getting their money's worth -- that is, are we really relieving poverty and under-development in the world?

To begin to answer these questions one must place the year's CIDA estimates in the perspective of recent years. It is true that Canadian disbursements for official development assistance will in all likelihood fall short, in 1975-76, of the .07 per cent of GNP (gross national product) target set by the United Nations and to which the Government is committed; but the record of recent years clearly demonstrates the sincerity of our commitment. From 1970-71 to 1970-74, Canada's official development-assistance GNP ratio rose steadily from .40 to approximately .53 per cent, and it should reach .58 during the coming fiscal year. I stress that the constraints upon our disbursements are not the generosity of the people of Canada or of Treasury Board but