

*Oral Questions***AID**

**Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister for External Relations.

The United Nations development report is all about global human development. The 1991 report released last week states that the quality of Canada's aid program is poor. To quote its principal author, Mahbub ul Haq, "it is a cause for concern that only 5 per cent of Canadian aid ends up in the basic human survival programs".

Given that the first priority of Canada's aid program as stated in the minister's own strategy paper is poverty alleviation, can the minister assure us that all new trends in CIDA will not benefit Canadian contractors as a priority but will directly address and correct Canada's poor record in alleviating global poverty?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Monique Landry (Minister for External Relations and Minister of State (Indian Affairs and Northern Development)):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to reassure my colleague that the strategy defined in "Sharing Our Future" is still what guides our aid programs and sets out our policies.

Therefore I can assure her that our programs are still directed to offsetting poverty and especially to furthering social development. In this regard, I would tell my colleague that CIDA estimates approximately 40 per cent of its funds have an impact on people's social development in health, food, education and even job creation that in the long run can help women and families.

I can assure her that we will continue to direct our programs toward those objectives.

[*English*]

**Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the same minister.

The United Nations development report says, contrary to the minister, that Canada's aid program failed in adequately alleviating poverty and instead was focused too much on the provision of self-serving economic development and technical assistance. It is well known that direct poverty alleviation is best implemented overseas through our non-government organizations and their Third World partners.

Will the minister assure us today that she will cancel all budgetary cutbacks to Canadian non-government organizations and instead provide them a growing proportion of funding according to their program capacity?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Monique Landry (Minister for External Relations and Minister of State (Indian Affairs and Northern Development)):** Mr. Speaker, I would again reassure my colleague about the orientation of our programs. We have clearly stated that all our Canadian partners, be they non-government organizations, institutions or even the private sector, helped us deliver the kind of aid required for Third World development.

I would also tell my colleague that of course non-governmental organizations are essential and do outstanding work, but I also believe that the private sector too can contribute to the economic growth of developing countries. Our partners in all Third World countries ask us to develop employment and thus contribute to their people's welfare.

For this, we will continue to use all our Canadian partners in the development of Third World countries.

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[*English*]

**VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**Mr. Garth Turner (Halton—Peel):** Mr. Speaker, the Japanese government has now officially apologized to those brave Canadians who were interned during the Second World War. In the wake of this action I have a question for the Minister of Veterans Affairs.

What does this government plan to do to compensate those Canadians for the suffering they went through at the hands of their captors? Will this government help those veterans with their claim for some financial compensation to go along with the apology that we have heard today?

**Hon. Gerald S. Merrithew (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, what happened yesterday was certainly an extraordinary event for Canada and the Canadian people and particularly the Hong Kong veterans in receiving an apology from that government after 45 years. It would certainly have to be termed a diplomatic success by any standard.

Nothing can ever really compensate the POWs, the Hong Kong veterans who spent four years in the prisoner of war camps of the Japanese. It is for this very reason