

Chapter I

THE CHALLENGE OF DEVELOPMENT

In late 1968, as part of its overall review of foreign policy, the Government initiated a comprehensive review of Canadian policies in international development assistance. The review examined a wide range of issues, including the motivation and purposes of Canadian support for development assistance, its volume and terms, Canada's strategy in this field, the relationship between multilateral and bilateral programmes, allocations among recipient countries, the role of the private sector, and the relationship of development assistance to other international economic policies. The review has now been completed and the special studies which were commissioned for it have been made available to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and Defence. The purpose of this paper is to present to Parliament and to the Canadian people the policies which the Government intends to adopt in the field of development assistance.

The review of Canadian development assistance policy was timely. Concurrently with the Canadian review, the Commission on International Development headed by the Right Honourable L. B. Pearson was undertaking a comprehensive analysis of development assistance within a global context. A special United Nations preparatory group was developing a strategy for the Second Development Decade and a study was being undertaken by Sir Robert Jackson of the development capacity of the UN system. These reviews inevitably considered many of the same questions. The Canadian review and proposed policies naturally reflect Canada's particular position in the world and its special interests and competence. The other studies complement the Canadian review by outlining the global framework within which the Canadian programme must operate.

The development process and the provision of external assistance for development are complex. All aspects of policy are completely interdepen-