

developing countries.

Canada accepts the validity of these propositions and recognizes the need for changes in international economic relations to reduce disparities that we consider intolerable between rich and poor nations.

International development assistance

One -- indeed the most established -- of the ways of closing this gap between rich and poor, between developed and developing, is development assistance. This conception is one that we owe to the first generation of postwar leaders. Novel in 1945, it has since become firmly established as an instrument of international co-operation through the creation of the International Development Association (IDA), UNDP, the regional development banks, and the extensive network of bilateral development-assistance programs.

But the proposals for a new economic order call for a fresh approach to development assistance. Its purpose, scope and character must be altered to fit the new circumstances of the Seventies.

Canada's response is contained in a new Strategy for International Development Co-operation for 1975-80, which was made public by the Canadian Government yesterday in Ottawa. Allow me to mention the main features of our new Strategy, which is designed to meet these new demands:

- (1) We pledge to continue and to increase our programs of development assistance. This year our disbursements will exceed \$900 million, and they will grow significantly in the years ahead.
- (2) We are determined to achieve for official development assistance the official UN target of .7 per cent of our GNP and to move toward it by annual increases in proportion to GNP.
- (3) We intend to place major emphasis on fostering economic growth and the evolution of social systems in such a way that they will produce the widest distribution of benefits among the population of developing countries.
- (4) We plan to concentrate the bulk of our bilateral assistance on the poorest countries and on the poorest sectors of their economies.
- (5) We plan to develop new forms of co-operation to meet the needs of middle-income developing countries in order to strengthen