

Looking at the estimates in detail, you will find that disbursements for bilateral programmes, excluding food aid, will rise to \$462 million, an 11.5 per cent increase over last year's \$414 million. Multilateral disbursements, again excluding food aid, will be \$243 million, an increase of about 12 per cent over last year's figure, allowing more support for both the concessionary funds and the ordinary operations of the various development banks. The provision for special programmes, such as matching grants for non-governmental organizations and funds for the International Development Research Centre, will grow from \$61 million last year to \$66 million.

The other major element in our assistance programme is food aid. When delegates met in Rome in 1974 to deal with the world food crisis, Canada showed leadership by taking on quite specific commitments for the following three years. For 1975-76, the Rome pledges have been met through a food aid programme that has grown rapidly from \$117 million in 1973-74 to \$174 million in 1974-75, and last year reached a total of some \$215 million.

For the coming year, I am pleased to announce that Canada will provide roughly \$230 million of food aid. Of this total, about \$105 million will be channeled through multilateral organizations. You may recall that Canadian support for the World Food Programme grew dramatically last year, from about \$20 million in 1974-75 to \$94.5 million in 1975-76. We will increase our contribution for the current year to \$103 million, because the World Food Programme has a comprehensive overview of world food needs, and because it has effective programmes that link food aid to development work in a way that reaches the people in greatest need.

Our programme of bilateral food aid will provide Canadian grain, milk powder, and other types of food for India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and for other countries in Asia, Africa and Central America, to a total value of about \$125 million. Because food production recovered well during 1975 in the developing countries, it will be possible for some of this food aid to be used in rebuilding the buffer stocks that were so dangerously depleted by the recent crisis. A substantial reserve fund of some \$33 million has been set aside to help cope with situations that may arise during the year.

These are the details -- but how well do they fit into the overall pattern of Canada's strategy for international development co-operation, as outlined last September? In offering you today an initial report on how the strategy has been implemented