

related to labour intensive projects and rural welfare.

Since the adoption by the General Assembly in 1960 of Resolution 1496 (XV) which authorized the initial studies, events have moved swiftly. An Intergovernmental Committee of twenty countries has been established, has adopted rules of procedure and tentative budget estimates, and has prepared a work programme. An Executive Director, Dr. Boerma, has been appointed, and a Pledging Conference has been held at which approximately \$88 million was pledged. In short, what was only an idea two years ago is now an accomplished fact and a new and vital organization within the United Nations family is ready to play its part towards achievement of the aims of the United Nations Development Decade.

Canada has from the beginning taken an active part in the preparations leading to the establishment of the World Food Programme, beginning with the proposal made by the Canadian Prime Minister, the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker, in his statement to the General Assembly on September 26, 1960, Canada's position with regard to the World Food Programme was outlined by the Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Alvin Hamilton, at the FAO conference in November, 1961, in the following words:

"In our view, the concept of a world food bank must be based on the need of people for food -- not on the need of countries to dispose of surpluses. What we envisage is that the more fortunate members of the United Nations family, most of whom have a substantial potential for food production, should jointly make some of their resources in this field available to assist the less fortunate."

We have consistently argued that the programme must be multilateral in character, that it must not impede the development of local production in recipient countries and that there must be adequate provision for safeguarding commercial markets. All this has been written into the fundamental charter of the