

If we do not have clearly in mind why we are providing economic aid or if we provide it for the wrong reasons, I have come to the conclusion on the basis of my short experience here that the peoples of the under-developed countries will be the first to recognize our error. They neither ask for alms nor charity and nothing we give is given in that spirit. We recognize their rightful insistence on the equality of peoples and the management of their own resources without interference. We hope our assistance will serve as a bridge of understanding and freedom between peoples of different races, outlooks and traditions.

International economic assistance is a new idea. The free giving of aid from one sovereign country to another sovereign country is a recent development and can almost be considered to have begun after the end of the Second World War with the generous programme of assistance to Europe which is known as the Marshall Plan. It is important, therefore, to maintain and protect this new idea in the hope that it will develop into a secure basis for international co-operation, and peaceful progress.

I would also like to suggest on the basis of Canadian experience that the giving of economic aid brings benefits to the giver as well as to the receiver. For Canada the economic benefits of the aid programmes we have undertaken have been marginal in the extreme. Much more important has been the understanding of the problems of many areas with which my country would not have been closely connected had there been no programmes of assistance to the less-advanced countries. Canadians have found that they have a great deal to gain from contact with the ancient cultures of Asia for example, and that these benefits are real and important.

Other delegations have suggested that this debate on economic development should consider whether economic assistance should be given multilaterally through the United Nations or bilaterally. (When we come to a discussion of SUNFED my Delegation will suggest that sharp distinctions between these various forms of assistance need not be drawn. Canada has been happy to participate in a number of bilateral economic aid programmes arranged under the canopy of the Colombo Plan. It is probable that bilateral aid programmes will continue to form the largest source of economic aid to the under-developed countries. It should also be recognized that in bilateral economic aid programmes, individual projects are selected and carried out on a co-operative basis. The receiver has comparable responsibility with the donor.

However, as Mr. Pearson has stated, "It is also very important that the United Nations should be brought more closely into the international economic assistance picture. If the United Nations can play an increasing role in this field, we can, I believe, avoid an unhappy situation in which international aid becomes a source of competition amongst some and a cause of suspicion among others". The Canadian authorities have noticed an increasing interest in multilateral rather than bilateral programmes and for this reason Canada accepted election to and participated actively in United Nations bodies directly concerned with problems of