

We have accepted the obligation as an economically-developed nation to extend economic assistance both by direct action and through world-wide or regional programmes carried out by the United Nations, the ILO and other agencies.

Canada is carrying out at present a programme of economic co-operation involving the allocation of about \$300 million. In the last four years, approximately, our appropriations have almost tripled. We are working towards levels of aid activity which will take fully into account the recommendation of competent international agencies concerning the allocation by developed nations of 1 per cent of their gross national product to these purposes. Our allocations must, however, take into account what is sometimes overlooked, that Canada is a net importer of capital.

Our major assistance programmes in Colombo Plan countries in Asia after 1950 and then in other Commonwealth and in French-speaking countries after 1960 have, of course, arisen from Commonwealth associations and other traditional interests. Considerations of language have been of operational significance, particularly in technical assistance projects.

It is important to note, however, that in this Hemisphere the programme for Commonwealth countries in the Caribbean area began in 1958 and that bilateral assistance to developing countries in Latin America began in 1964 with the establishment of a development-loan programme to be carried out in conjunction with the Inter-American Development Bank.

It is also important to note that Canada contributes substantially to multilateral aid programmes benefiting developing countries throughout the world. We have, for example, quadrupled the sum pledged to the allocation of food stuff and currency to the World Food Programme. In this field, we are the second highest contributor among the nations. Our food-aid programme will reach a new high of \$75 million this year.

Since the inception of the United Nations Programme for Technical Assistance, Canada has been among the leading contributors. In various fields of United Nations activity and in the work of the Specialized Agencies (among them, of course, the ILO), we have participated by financial contributions to work being done in this Hemisphere as in other parts of the world.

#### Relations with the United States

Our second aim has been to strengthen friendly relations with the nations of the Americas.

I scarcely need to discuss the closeness of our relations with the United States in detail. As neighbours sharing a transcontinental border and possessing a great many common beliefs and practices, we are engaged in many joint projects and come into contact in very many ways. The recent meeting of President Johnson and Prime Minister Pearson for a day's discussion of world, continental and even domestic topics in one country or the other indicates the intimacy of our relations.