

In response to a student speaker, Mr. Steven Navratil, who proposed a massive aid programme to produce rapid change, Dr. Prager responded that in the past aid funds from international organizations had served to perpetuate the status quo and retarded efforts to seek solutions from within the recipient countries. Asked about whether CIDA has macro-economic programmes in Latin America, Ms. Ford noted support initiatives to provide tools, techniques, and materials. Concerning the draft document from Nicaragua, "Eradication of Poverty and Discrimination (Women)," Ricardo Acuña of Change for Children identified contradictions pointing out that the actual policies of the Nicaraguan government are driving more and more women into poverty every day. He argued that the most effective development aid is NGO-sponsored and directed community to community. Despite earnest words, even the Canadian government has continued to reduce aid funding directed to help eradicate poverty. Ms. Ford responded that CIDA has developed cooperative programmes, partnerships, models, and new ideas. She gave the example of CIDA work in Honduras where a model programme has been set up to produce low cost potable water that in a few years will be available for general use by other countries. Political Scientist Dr. Kalowatie Deonandan of the University of Saskatchewan wondered whether in the area of poverty eradication if CIDA's contracts and development projects represented the best system of delivery. This led to a discussion about whether Canadian initiatives sometimes work at counter-purpose. Some speakers answered in the affirmative with examples of business initiatives that appeared to threaten the livelihood of indigenous peoples who had been protected by other Canadian programmes.

Given the expanding gap between rich and poor in Latin America, some speakers expressed frustration and outright cynicism about the commitments of governments to eradicate poverty. Mr. Antipan argued that each Latin