

Our ODA level has reached .5% of GNP. It will amount to \$2.7 billion this year. Aid is one of only two government programs being allowed to grow in the current climate of fiscal restraint. We have, moreover, put it on an all-grant basis. But Canada still must meet the accelerated growth targets set out in "Sharing Our Future": .6% by 1995 and .7% by the year 2000.

The debt burden is one of the most serious problems inhibiting growth in developing countries today. Canada is doing more than its share in helping to deal with this problem, both as it affects middle-income Latin American debtors and as it affects the poorest countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. We have forgiven \$600 million in ODA debt of the poorest countries and are urging other donors to take similar steps.

For the middle income debtors we are helping in the search for creative solutions. We will be discussing some of the possibilities with a group of Latin American Foreign Ministers who will be arriving in Canada this weekend for pre-Summit consultations.

In the last quarter of this century, the environment has emerged as a compelling issue in foreign relations. In the words of the Brundtland Commission: "When the century began, neither human numbers nor technology had the power radically to alter planetary systems. As the century closes, not only do vastly increased human numbers and their activities have that power, but major unintended changes are occurring in the atmosphere, in soils, in waters, among plants and animals, and in the relationships among all of these".

Canada has acted on the Brundtland Commission Report. The National Task Force's report has been approved by the Prime Minister and the ten provincial premiers. The Brundtland Commission's concept of "sustainable development" is thus being integrated into industrial activities and government programs alike. The concept has, for example, been made a central feature of CIDA's new aid strategy.

Canada also has been active internationally. The Montreal Protocol to protect the ozone layer was a major milestone on the way to a Law of the Atmosphere. Canada will also be host country to the Conference on the Changing Atmosphere this June in Toronto, which Stephen Lewis will chair. In November, we will be host for a meeting of experts from many countries to consider legal principles as a basis for future international accords on the atmosphere.

Two particular environmental challenges will continue to engage Canadian diplomacy: acid rain and the Arctic. It is incumbent on the United States to enter into a cooperative acid rain agreement similar to the Great Lakes Water Quality