

that Canada's international development policies would henceforth give a much higher priority to programs designed to enhance agricultural productivity and, in general, the efficient exploitation and husbandry of renewable resources. CIDA will, naturally, concentrate on areas where Canadian expertise and capabilities are considerable or can be more easily expanded: the provision of fertilizer, research in dry-land farming, water-resource evaluation and harnessing, the development of wheat farming, cattle and dairy farming, the planning and provision of storage and bulk-handling facilities, fisheries and forestry management, soil sciences, animal breeding, animal nutrition and crop storage and processing.

Canadians must realize that a major effort in that direction will require some rearrangement of our economic priorities so as to channel more investment into the agricultural sector than would strictly be required by domestic needs: more funds for agricultural education and training, more funds for research, a larger industrial capacity for the production of fertilizer, farm implements and other agricultural inputs. Already CIDA and the Department of Agriculture have come together to draw up long-term plans, and we shall be seeking the active co-operation of provincial governments and of all segments of the agricultural industry. I am quite confident that the people of Canada, whose wealth and affluence are largely derived from agriculture, will accept the most dramatic challenge of the coming decades: to improve substantially the living and working conditions of the rural poor of the world -- about 750 million people, some 40 per cent of the total population of developing countries.

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Few people realize the magnitude of the Agency's operational problems. At any one time CIDA manages, supervises or monitors some 2,000 projects of a very diversified nature, in more than 60 countries located from three to five thousand miles away from Ottawa. Critics demand that the Agency exercise a degree of control over these far-flung projects comparable to that which has become customary in the Canadian Government; and yet some are shocked that CIDA's travelling expenses are higher than those of other departments. In this respect, the Committee should note that the 20 or so projects that have been questioned recently in the press represent barely 1 per cent of CIDA's currently active files.

CIDA must deal regularly with countries that have vastly different political régimes, cultures, languages and socio-economic systems. All are under-developed, but all have reached a particular stage