

*International Development Research Centre*

growth corporation in North America spends approximately 6 per cent of its annual income for these purposes.

This situation is of great concern to those who are close to the heart of the international development process. The report of the Commission on International Development headed by our former Prime Minister, the Right Hon. Lester B. Pearson, highlights this concern and recommends, and I quote:

—aid suppliers should devote a significant share of their research and development resources and facilities to projects specifically related to problems of developing countries.

This Commission proposes that by 1972 such expenditures should amount to 5 per cent of all public expenditures in the industrialized countries for research and development, of which at least half should be put to work in the developing countries. The United Nations Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology goes further and has proposed that donors be asked to allocate 10 per cent of their research and development resources to projects of concern to lower income countries and an additional 5 per cent to help create institutional infrastructure for science and technology in these countries.

This is an area in which Canada can play an important role and it is for this purpose that we propose to establish the International Development Research Centre of Canada. This bill results from two years of careful investigation and planning by the Canadian International Development Agency with the active assistance and participation of a number of other government departments and experts outside government, particularly the Canadian universities and a number of international institutions. A great deal of care has been taken to design an instrument that will complement and supplement the work that is being carried on by others in this field. I can assure the House that Canada's initiative in creating this body is welcomed by the entire international development community.

The centre will be basically a Canadian institution with an important international dimension. The chairman and most of the members of the centre's board of governors are to be Canadian as well as the majority of its executive committee. Both the board and the staff will include specially qualified people from various parts of the world, including the developing countries. The centre will be structured so as to provide the best possible environment for creativity and problem solving.

The centre will identify, initiate and encourage, support and undertake research into the problems involved in the development of economically deprived regions of the world. It will seek to develop the most effective application of the results of this research to the needs of the people of those regions. It will give high priority to programs that assist the developing countries to build their own scientific and technological capabilities so that they will not be mere welfare recipients, but contributors in their own right to the solution of their own problems.

I have said that the centre will be "problem oriented". A small expert headquarters group will identify specific development problems and develop programs designed to focus resources upon them. In the development and implementation of its programs the centre would work closely with other government departments and non-governmental institutions, particularly Canadian universities and industry. A typical project might consist of a number of programs carried out on a decentralized basis by institutions and individuals chosen for their specific capacity. The centre will also be able to provide financial support to specific research activities of other institutions that contribute directly to its own programs and objectives.

• (3:30 p.m.)

For example, a program designed to improve the protein content of cereal grains might be spearheaded by a Canadian university with special experience in that field. It would involve a number of other Canadian and non-Canadian organizations, each of which would be engaged in a specific aspect of the work as part of a co-ordinated program. Appropriate authorities in the less developed countries would be involved in the crucial work of applying and adapting the results of all the work to the environmental and social conditions of those countries.

After a project has been undertaken, the function of the headquarters group will be to oversee the programs and to audit and disseminate their results. Discussions with the OECD Development Centre, the United Nations and some of the United Nations Specialized Agencies indicate that the centre's headquarters might also provide a centralized system for assimilating, storing, retrieving and disseminating scientific and technical data relevant to international development. In this way the centre would help provide an