



Statements and Speeches

No. 75/14

ASSESSING CANADA'S AID TO THE THIRD WORLD

Notes for a Speech at St. Mark's United Church, Port Hawkesbury, N.S., May 4, 1975.

The subject I wish to discuss with you this morning is aid to developing countries, and more broadly Canada's relations with the Third World. Considerable attention has been focused recently on this subject, in the press, within our Government and in international forums. In trying to define a future role for Canada in this area, I have been asking myself some very fundamental questions. These, I think, go to the heart of an assessment of what Canada can and should do in assisting the Third World.

First, what are the basic reasons for having an aid program?

Second, what level of aid expenditure does the Canadian public, and more specifically the Canadian taxpayer, wish to support? I have in mind here Canada's domestic economic situation and the possibility of alternative ways of spending public funds for domestic programs.

Third, in what way can the public and non-governmental organizations be encouraged to play a more active role in aid and development matters?

Fourth, how can Canada and other wealthy developed countries assist developing countries in ways beyond the provision of aid?

Fifth and finally, is there a need, as many developing countries have asserted, for a new international economic order?

In considering aid policy toward developing countries, one must seek the basic reasons for having an aid program in the first place, and for transferring significant resources and wealth from one country to others.

We are all a part of the community of man. One of man's primary claims to civilization is that he is prepared to care for his fellow man and share his wealth and resources with others. This manifestation of civilization can be seen in a family, a community and a nation, and it can also be seen among nations. It is, in my view, the primary reason for providing assistance to countries less fortunate than our own.
