

Generally we felt that CIDA is doing a good job, given the kind of context within which it works. CIDA is the assistance link between the wealth of Canada and the poverty of many nations around the world. It handles a budget of some \$2.5 billion per year.

We expect that CIDA is going to reflect Canadian values. Sometimes those values are more honoured in rhetoric than they are in reality. However, we expect that CIDA will reflect Canadian values in terms of moving toward greater equality for women, access for women, and greater concern for the environment. Sometimes in trying to implement Canadian values in a foreign context development assistance workers have a fairly difficult time. At the same time we give CIDA a mixed mandate, because in addition to protecting these values we also want to protect Canadian commercial interests.

The importance of development assistance cannot be over-emphasized in the House today. Perhaps it could be symbolized by a poem which was published in *The Christian Century* about 20 years ago, written by Claire Van Breemen, in which a North American mother looks down at her one-year old child. I should like to read it. It is called *For Jeremy, Age One* and reads:

Sun-gilded Buddha with the gamin smile,  
 Fat diety of plenty and sure trust  
 Somewhere  
 (Where? Half a continent away, or half a world?)  
 Nemesis crawls  
 With groping baby fists  
 Searching for food-scraps in the gutter slime,  
 Or wakes to cry unhushed,  
 Frail moth-hands beating  
 At the terror and the dark.  
 Small son,  
 So long as any child  
 Suckles but bitterness  
 And wakes to fear,  
 You are not safe.  
 You are not wholly fed.

The poem suggests very clearly what we all know, that hunger and poverty in the Third World represent a nemesis for our civilization and for our children unless we find some effective way of dealing with it.

It is very important that Canada should maintain its aid program, that we should work with other nations in helping them to develop a more effective international aid program, and that our aid program should be as effective as it possibly can be.

The major findings, with the exception of the last chapter which dealt with the level of Canadian assistance, were concurred in by members of all three Parties. I should like to outline some of these major findings.

### Motions

First, it said that Canada should establish a development charter with the following aims:

- i) The primary purpose of Canadian official development assistance is to help the poorest countries and people in the world.
- ii) Canadian development assistance should work always to strengthen the human and institutional capacity of developing countries to solve their own problems in harmony with the natural environment.
- iii) Development priorities should always prevail in setting objectives for the ODA program. Where development objectives would not be compromised, complementarity should be sought between the objectives of the aid program and other important foreign policy objectives.

In other words, the charter would establish the basic principles under which we want to operate. We say that development assistance should be the priority and that it should not be subjected to other foreign policy objectives. We also say that all our aid projects should be directed toward what we call human development. There should be a shift in CIDA funding from large-scale capital projects to more emphasis on primary health care and education at all levels. Where we have large infrastructural programs, they should have built-in training programs to ensure long-term maintenance and good management of the facilities. Providing hardware to Third World countries without providing proper training for use and upkeep is worse than useless.

I remember when the committee visited a water filtration plant in Tanzania which was to be providing a major source of water for the capital city of Dar es Salaam. It was supposed to have been a state of the art filtration plant, but somehow in providing it we never got around to making sure that sand was provided for the filtration. Instead of filtration there was only a certain degree of settlement for purifying the water. The value of that plant was cut down to a fraction of its capacity.

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We recommend that there should be a greater emphasis on projects directed at women and developed by women, particularly at the grass roots level and particularly for rural women who are often involved in subsistence agriculture. A very high percentage of subsistence agriculture in our world is performed by women and yet in the past women have been neglected by our development priorities.

Perhaps one of the central recommendations of our committee was that CIDA should establish a much closer link between development assistance and the human rights situation in the recipient country. The report recognizes the complexity of the human rights issue as it relates to aid, but it cannot be a straight line drawn between human rights and development assistance. There are always some subjective elements in human rights. We recognize that. We also say that as Canadians, as citizens of the western world, our understanding of human rights has to be more broad than simply that of civil, political and individual rights. Our understanding of human rights should also include socio-economic and cultural rights and that there are certain obvious minimum subsistence and security rights.