

Before I close I would like to say how important in making these activities effective is the work which many of you are doing as private persons - and not only as taxpayers or informed critics, important as those roles undoubtedly are.

I have in mind particularly the attention which you have been giving to those who have come to our country for periods of training. These visitors must often find our ways strange and difficult to get used to. I am sure that they and we benefit greatly from the informal and friendly contacts which take place. While we do not want to create an artificial life for them here I think they should be encouraged to get to know us as we are and we in turn should seek to understand them better.

I am also impressed by the useful work which many of you are doing through voluntary agencies to provide assistance to other countries.

These personal contacts and voluntary activities have become more and not less important as we as a country have joined in the great international assistance programmes. If the people of these countries are to realize that we are genuinely concerned with their welfare and are not regarding our aid programmes as mere mechanical operations, it is important that they should know how deeply interested we as individuals are in them and in their problems and aspirations.

It has often been said that by far the larger part of the development programmes must come from the resources of the under-developed countries themselves. That is undoubtedly true. The fact that external aid may often be marginal does not, however, make it unimportant. Many a garment might unravel if it were not for the hem. In much the same way the fabric of economic and social life in many of these countries is strengthened by the function which outside assistance performs and by the evidence which it brings of widespread interest, sympathy and support.

It speaks well, I think, for the people of Canada that they are not so preoccupied with the challenging and difficult problems posed by the development of their own economy and the defence of their own security that they have no time to give aid - and thought - to the economic development of other countries who are struggling against much greater odds. In this way we are not only assisting the people of those countries to improve their material conditions and establish their lives in a more satisfying and self-respecting foundations, we are also helping them to make their full contribution to the enrichment of life on this planet of which we are a part - and sometimes a not too comfortable part.

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