

primary responsibility for their own development and provide most of their own resources. They must set their own economic and social objectives. They must determine how much self-sacrifice is required and in what areas.

However, development assistance can provide the extra margin of support that can bring a developing country to the take-off point - enough support to make the heavy demands in themselves worthwhile. This can be done by supplementing the resources of the developing countries with skills, equipment, experience and resources which are limited in their own economies but essential to the development process.

The point I am making here is that external assistance can have an important and even decisive impact on the development process in each country.

From your own experience I think you will have recognized a basic truth about any help which is provided to the developing world. To be effective - which is to say to be enduring - aid must be more than the provision of funds, goods or technical expertise. For example, while there is a role for teachers, especially in the initial stages of a programme teacher training is more important. To be successful we must be helping a country or a community to help itself. In whatever project we are engaged in - either government or non-governmental programmes - we must always keep clearly in mind that we will have failed if the project cannot stand on its own feet when our skills and experience are withdrawn.

Nor should we look at the provision of aid strictly in terms of a charitable obligation of the haves to the have nots, or in terms of the Western world's debt to former colonial territories. Aid which is openly characterized as charity or as reparations is almost bound to set off on the wrong foot.

I have said the role of external assistance in relation to the task of eliminating world poverty is a limited one, but it still requires from Canada the intelligent application of a very wide range of our own resources and skills. You and other non-profit, non-governmental organizations are very much an essential partner in this enterprise.

Non-governmental organizations tend to be well suited to helping others help themselves. In your case this is a role you have discharged with distinction for the community in Canada. Private sector assistance enables organizations in developing countries to establish direct working relations with their counterparts in Canada. This contact facilitates the flow of knowledge and expertise - and ensures that it is relevant to the project at hand. There are times and places where we cannot be confident that aid provided on a government to government basis will reach its intended destination. Aid provided through the non-governmental net can sometimes bypass government corruption in a recipient country.

Non-governmental organizations often have the capacity also of bringing to their activities an element of direct human concern that is at times too diffused and diluted in the context of government programmes.