

Food Aid

ment, which is vitally concerned with these subjects, will, in addition to supporting the Scandinavian initiatives, make specific proposals of its own.

In conclusion, I wish to refer to the words of new volunteer groups in this country which are concerned with these issues, groups such as Project Ploughshare, an initiative of major Canadian churches, and the United Nations Association. They, too, in a recent pamphlet entitled *A Time to Disarm* recommend—and I whole-heartedly support this initiative—that the Canadian government in its statement should advocate a five-year program which would include financial support for public research into the problem of converting defence industries into civilian ones, the linking of development assistance policies with Canadian policies on disarmament, and collaboration with other countries embarking on studies linking disarmament with development. If we were to advocate a position of that kind we would contribute more substantially to the real needs of the world than is the case at present.

May I end by quoting Philip Noel-Baker, the 1959 Nobel Peace Laureate:

There is really only one major problem for mankind and that is to demilitarize the governments and societies of the world. We must release the resources wasted on what is now called defence, when there is no defence, in order to solve our other problems.

Mr. Hugh A. Anderson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, projections of world food supply and demand into 1985 indicate that food distribution between developed and developing countries will not correspond to needs. Food gaps, existing when domestic production and food imports are less than a country's total demand, will be most severe in the lowest-income developing countries. By 1985 the gap could be as wide as 100 million tonnes, yet total food aid pledges on a world basis are, at present, limited to ten million tonnes. The gap will disappear only when there are large increases in food production in the developing countries, for which there is potential, as well as better population control. Even so, the developing countries would still require substantial input for many years, a situation which might present an intolerable strain on the balance of payments of many nations.

There will be a continuing need for concessional transfers of food from developed countries complementary to other multilateral or bilateral assistance to help the developing nations to grow most, if not all, of the food they require. In the 1960s a major food aid objective was the directing of grain surpluses into channels which would not affect commercial markets. Gradually the emphasis switched to the delivery of food aid to multilateral organizations such as the World Food Program. By the 1970s the objectives of food aid policy were humanitarian and developmental in nature. Indeed, since 1974 all Canadian food grains directed to food aid, both multilateral and bilateral, could have been disposed of through commercial channels.

Food aid is an important part of Canadian development assistance. In times of drought, flood, famine, civil strike and

[Mr. MacDonald (Egmont).]

general food shortages, food aid is indispensable to the livelihood and survival of millions in developing countries.

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In 1975, some 462 million people, half of these children under five, were starving, according to United Nations Food and Agriculture organizations estimates. Since 1970, Canadian food aid to the third world has risen by over 19 per cent every year, to approximately \$240 million, or about one quarter of all Canadian International Development Agency disbursements for fiscal year 1976-77.

In 1976-77, bilateral country-to-country food aid accounted for about 63 per cent of the total food aid program. Most of this was in the form of grain or grain equivalent, but substantial amounts of milk powder, beans, rapeseed oil, fish, egg powder and beef are also provided. Almost 80 per cent of that went to four Asiatic countries, namely India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

During the same year, CIDA also provided \$2 million in bilateral funds for international emergency relief assistance to 16 developing countries. The funds are given to the League of Red Cross Societies who offer medical and protective services, including food. When food is delivered to a developing country, Canada pays for the shipping costs. Most of the bilateral food aid is sold by the recipient government to its nationals. This is because the free distribution of food would disrupt internal production, creating a situation where food imports may be necessary indefinitely. The sale of food helps the recipient government generate funds for needed development projects.

Nearly 38 per cent or \$89.1 million in food aid was offered multilaterally in 1976-77. Most of this went to the World Food Program. The remainder went to the UN Refugee and Works Agency and the United Nations Children's Fund. The World Food Program is the main focus of the UN's food aid activities, and it uses contributions from many national sources to organize projects that fall into three main categories: food for work projects, intended to help the recipient country improve its food production by offering food as a partial wage for workers engaged in development projects; vulnerable group feeding project, for children, nursing mothers, and the elderly; emergency relief projects, for victims of natural and civil disasters. For 1977-78, Canada pledged \$150 million in food aid to the World Food Program, with an additional \$50 million for 1978 should the need arise.

The food allocation, policy, and decision-making body of the World Food Program is the 30-member Committee of Food Aid Policies and Programs. Canada has been regularly elected as a member since the program's inception, and the newly elected Director General of the program is a Canadian.

In 1976-77, CIDA contributed over \$35 million in matching grants to various Canadian and international non-governmental organizations. During that year, milk programs for the needy in third world countries were supported by six non-governmental organizations, including the Unitarian Service Committee, World Vision, Mennonite Central Committee,