

portion to the need for a changed attitude or perception on the part of those in both North and South, it was a disappointing period. Mr. Pearson argued that the case for development was self-evident. He was bolstered, of course, by outstanding spokesmen of the late 60s such as Pope John XXIII, who stated with conviction that "the new name for peace is development". As well, however, there was, an understandable degree of naivety about the development process. The general theory was that the enhancement of the infrastructure and of the economy of a developing country would inevitably help those who were on the bottom end of the pile through 'the trickle down process'. Thus, those who were designing development programs tended to believe that by providing some of this massive infrastructure required in order to permit a developing country to put its own economy in order would in the end benefit the poorer people in the society. That theory has not borne itself out.

Secondly, other ingredients in the development process have now been identified. There had been too much hope placed in a simple transfer effect, as had taken place with the Marshall Plan. But, what one must never forget is that the countries of Europe, although devastated by World War II, were possessed of a skilled, educated population, with decades of industrial and organizational tradition behind them and thus were capable of absorbing the transferred technology. The developing countries are in a much different situation and the problem has to be approached from a variety of points of view. One of them, certainly is from the point of view of their position in the international trading system. If these countries are not able to participate, to earn their own way increasingly, then, whatever techniques we bring to bear, will be dooming them to a permanent position of second-rate actors on the world scene, dependent on handouts from those of us in the north who profess to want nothing more than to have them independent and self-sustaining.

I.P.: This organization, International Development Research Centre, of which you are the President takes a fairly unique approach to these problems in that, while it's Canadian government supplied money, it's administered by an international Board of Governors and it goes mainly to projects that are defined by the developing countries. Since the decade that IDRC has been in existence coincides with that second development decade, do you think this approach needs to be expanded upon and is it happening elsewhere?

Head: I'm happy that you suggested that the decade proves that our approach perhaps needs to be expanded upon rather than thought through. I think it must be expanded upon. The Centre came into being at the time of the Pearson Commission Report in response to the declared and identified need of developing coun-



"There has been whetted an appetite . . . for imported foods."

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tries to have a greater capacity to deal with their own problems and to engage in the research which is so often a precondition to problem solving. The Brandt Commission Report emphasized ten years later that this was still one of the requirements of developing countries and, of course, it was emphasized in considerable detail at a major United Nations Conference in Vienna in 1979. The attitude of the Centre is perhaps as unique as anything else about it. It is that the Centre must respond to a developing country's request, and not *vice versa*. This is a very important element in everything that we do.

Secondly, we have a double bottom line in our particular balance sheet. One, of course, is the hope that our support will provide, or assist in providing, solutions to soluble problems. Two, that the activity will be conducted in a way that will enhance the capability of the research community in the developing country so that in the future they will be able to face similar or related problems and themselves be able to deal with them. What we must understand is that in the developing world one of the biggest problems is simply that of identifying what the problem is. Outsiders are seldom sufficiently experienced to be able to undertake that first phase and, only by trial and error, will those who live there become expert in doing so.