

Similarly complementary to the official programme of development assistance is the work of non-governmental agencies in the development field. While the Pacific region has not been an area of primary emphasis for these groups in the past, they are successfully responding to a growing demand and merit continuing support.

IV CANADA'S POLITICAL AND SECURITY INTERESTS

REGIONAL CHALLENGES AND CANADIAN CAPABILITIES

Because of their own history, Canadians have an instinctive understanding of the aspirations of the smaller Pacific powers for national independence, and a familiarity with the lop-sided power relationships which are characteristic of the region.

It is noteworthy that Canada is the only developed nation of the Pacific region which enjoys the full range of inter-state relations with China. Since Canada also has open lines of communication with all the nations which will sooner or later be moving to strengthen their relations with the People's Republic, there appears to be a continuing potential for a modest but useful Canadian contribution in normalizing China's position in the Pacific community.

The Canadian Government does not envisage participation in military alliances with Pacific countries, or any other extensive military involvement, in the region. It has instead given priority to co-operative political and economic action to alleviate the deep-rooted causes of social and international tension. The Committee fully agrees with these priorities which are well-suited both to regional needs and to Canada's interests and capabilities.

The major element in Pacific activity involving Canada's direct security interests is in jurisdictional, coastal, and territorial protection on Canada's West Coast. These activities have been assigned a very high priority in the Government's new defence policy. The Committee considers this an important step in the effective utilization of the federal government's overall capabilities to promote important national interests in the Pacific coastal region.

The Committee generally supports the continuation of Canada's limited programmes of military co-operation and training assistance with a number of Pacific countries. In the absence of a final legal settlement to the Korean War, the Committee is concerned about the possible legal and political implications of Canada's continuing representation on the Armistice Commission. These matters should be thoroughly examined by the Government. The Committee believes that the establishment of a Canadian embassy in Seoul would allow for political representation to reflect and clarify Canada's current policies on these changing issues.

With respect to truce supervisory functions in Indochina, the Committee, while understanding the reasons for the Government's reservations, believes it important for Canada to indicate its continued willingness to accept a role in order to help bring an end to the war in Indochina.