

development programs.

I do not want to go over all the 21 points in the strategy, but I should like to refer to some of the most significant aspects. Canada's assistance will be concentrated in a limited number of developing countries to ensure maximum effectiveness and impact. The Canadian program will concentrate on the poorest countries, those most seriously affected by economic dislocation, and on the poorest groups within those countries. At least 80 per cent of our bilateral assistance will be aimed at these countries. Canadian development efforts will focus increasingly upon major world problems such as agriculture and rural development, basic education and training, public health and population, shelter and energy.

Canada wishes to help those nations that show a real willingness to help themselves. True co-operation provides nations with the option of choosing a method of development most appropriate to their own political, economic and social requirements. We wish to see, however, forms of development in which the poorest and weakest members of society -- the rural poor, the landless tenant farmers, the urban untrained and unemployed -- share from the beginning in the benefits of growth. The program will be flexible, with forms of assistance available that are tailored to the needs of some middle-income developing countries.

We restate our determination to reach the official United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of our gross national product in official development assistance through annual increases in assistance as a percentage of gross national product. We recognize that this pledge will be a severe test of our national commitment to development co-operation.

The strategy-review document will provide a focus for the Committee, if it so wishes, to examine Canada's development policy. It is the first time, I believe, that we have pulled together the guiding principles of our development program, and certainly I should welcome any comments the Committee might have on the principles that we have outlined, whether we are going in the right direction, and whether there are other principles that ought to be added or that ought to be removed.

I should like now to turn to broader questions involved in Canada's economic relations with developing countries. As members of the sub-committee, you have all shown a keen interest in the report of the Commonwealth Expert Group on a new international economic order and in the seventh special session of the United Nations General Assembly, which was held two months ago. Several of you attended the