

be written off. Canada has seen its commitment to these programs as a commitment to international solidarity and to human compassion. We do not intend to abandon them now. Food aid donors, and indeed all prosperous countries, have an obligation to maintain these flows while emergency conditions persist, and should expand them if possible. Conversely the recipients, past and future, have an obligation to take every reasonable measure to augment the availability of food locally, in order that food need not be diverted from those who are unavoidably hungry to feed those who are avoidably starving.

Canada accepts the main elements of a long-term food aid policy which have been recommended to us. I shall now set forth the specific response of the Canadian government to these recommendations: First, the Canadian government accepts the concept of forward planning; it has decided to make its own commitment for the next three years. Second, it agrees with the concept that, if the eroding effect of sudden price increases on the levels of food aid is to be avoided, the best way of pledging food aid is in physical terms, that is to say, in quantities of food rather than in amounts of money. Third, Canada supports the setting of a minimum target for world aid flows of 10 million tons of foodgrains a year. Fourth, in pursuance of these principles which we have accepted, Canada hereby commits itself to supplying an average of 1,000,000 tons of foodgrains annually for each of the next three years. In pledging this more than proportional amount towards the total target, we have had in mind that it is a minimum target and that we are facing a situation of extraordinary gravity. We would hope that other traditional and new donors will subscribe with us to the objective of surpassing the minimum target. Fifth, Canada is prepared to increase substantially the allocation of commodities other than foodgrains for food aid purposes. Sixth, we accept the proposition that multilateral food aid programs have operated to good and beneficial effect and that their continued effectiveness must be buttressed by adequate resources. Accordingly, we are prepared to channel approximately 20 percent of Canada's food aid through these multilateral programs. In order to carry out this commitment Canada will make a supplementary contribution to the World Food Program.

This, Mr. President, is the substance of Canada's response to the situation of acute distress that is confronting us.

In the longer term there is clearly a need to define more closely the circumstances where food aid is appropriate, and avoid the disincentives it causes in indigenous production. There is merit in suggestions that grain stocks for emergency relief be set aside on some consistent international basis, and arrangements made for their rapid mobilization when needed, and we will help pursue this question.