

commodity agreements; the second account, with a goal of \$300 million (US) in voluntary contributions, will finance measures such as research and development and market promotion to further commodity development. The Common Fund will enter into force upon ratification by 90 states whose contributions comprise two-thirds of the directly contributed capital and one-half the targeted voluntary financing.

Food and agriculture

The food security and the agricultural progress of developing countries continued to be a matter of international concern over the course of 1981.

Canada participated in a number of high level meetings of international organizations concerned with food and agricultural development questions. The most important was the meeting of the Council of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN (FAO), and the World Food Council ministerial meeting in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia. At these meetings Canada sought to promote the implementation of national food strategies in developing countries as a means of furthering their food security, and to ensure that the actions of the international organizations in the field were the most productive and cost effective possible. Some success was achieved in both areas.

In the fiscal year 1980-81 Canada contributed \$106 million in multilateral food aid and \$73 million in bilateral food aid to developing countries, and at the meeting of the International Fund for Agricultural Development in 1981, pledged \$42 million in aid of joint efforts of industrialized and oil-exporting countries in the area. At the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Melbourne, the Prime Minister announced that Canada would devote \$5 billion (45 per cent of total Canadian aid) to food security and agricultural development in the next five years. Canada is the second largest national contributor of food aid in the world.

Official development assistance

Aid, or official development assistance (ODA), is a major instrument of Canadian foreign policy. Canada is committed to growth in its aid program, towards a target of .5 per cent of GNP in official development assistance by mid-decade. The government has made a further commitment to attempt to reach an ODA level of .7 per cent of GNP by 1990. In the fiscal year 1980-81 Canada's net ODA disbursements were \$1.241 billion, or .416 per cent of GNP. Of this amount, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) bilateral programs accounted for \$581.5 million allocated primarily to the poorest developing countries, and the multilateral program disbursed \$510 million. The rest of the program was taken up by support for the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and for non-governmental organizations active in international development.