

To achieve still greater developmental impact, we will try very hard to focus more closely on those who need our help the most. We are one of the 9 countries that has exceeded the target of .15% of ODA for the very least developed. After Norway, we give the highest percentage of ODA in contributions to multilateral agencies. Fully 40% of our assistance is disbursed in this manner. Vulnerable groups must be protected, and nothing is going to prevent that happening. We intend to make special efforts in the field of child care, certainly including the drive for universal child immunization, to help control and cut infant mortality rate. We expect to step up Canada's international humanitarian assistance, in our efforts to help refugees. We will continue to be the largest per capita donor of food aid in the world, and among the largest per capita contributors to agricultural development. We made real progress, and we intend to go further, in enabling women to play a full part in our cooperation efforts, both as agents of development, and as the beneficiaries of development.

Canadian assistance to our closest Third World neighbours, the people of the Caribbean and Central America, doubled between 1983 and 1985. We will maintain that augmented flow. We are particularly aware that the people of Haiti are going through a unique moment in their history. Our two countries are knit together by a strong network of human concern, of family relationships and personal commitments. We will do everything possible to help Haiti find a better future for all its people.

And finally, Africa ... Canadians have been perhaps the largest donors, perhaps the most personally involved Westerners, during Africa's recent crisis. We are in Africa for the long haul. We will continue to provide the food, aid and development assistance Africa so clearly needs. And we will find new ways, particularly, to support those governments that are trying to get their affairs in order, and come to grips with Africa's fundamental long term development problems.

The government and the people of Canada want very much to help Africa move from coping with crisis to a new stage of investing in a better future. The form such initiatives will take is not yet decided. That question may perhaps be our biggest challenge in the field of international development in the months and years immediately ahead.

Before Christmas, I had the privilege of visiting South Asia again. India and Pakistan obviously still face immense challenges and problems. I was impressed and heartened by the visible evidence of progress - by how much has been achieved, against the odds.