

Routine Proceedings

tional Development Research Centre has put into the sphere of agriculture, its focus of attention and concentration.

Besides concentrating on agricultural security world-wide, employees of the centre have put a lot of effort into health and nutrition and social sciences. They have done much to relieve the poverty at the grassroots level in Third World countries around the world. Next week they will have a small technological fair at their centre to which they will invite the public to see some of the technology that they have brought into place: technology which, for example, has produced pumps that are easily maintained in the Third World, bringing healthy, safe water to population, and a simple device such as the hulling machine which has saved women in Third World countries hours daily in preparing their daily food.

Today we also have visiting us in our country a Dr. Mahbub ul Haq from the United Nations Development Program who has helped the United Nations put out a report on world development. He indicates in his report that it is not so important that everybody in the world have \$20,000 U.S. as their income per annum, but how we distribute wealth in the world; that if we support countries who are interested in equitable distribution of wealth and employ the resources that organizations such as the International Development Research Centre make possible, we can do much to improve the status of living of peoples around the world.

Along with the right hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs, I wish to congratulate the International Development Research Centre on its accomplishments. Through its technological fair and through its collaboration with other Canadian entities such as our non-government organizations in our universities, I hope Canadians will become more aware of the enormous contribution of the International Development Research Centre to effective international development and that others in Canada will be encouraged to follow its example.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Saskatoon—Humboldt): Mr. Speaker, the New Democratic Party supports interna-

tional development assistance and recognizes the International Development Research Centre as a proper tool for helping to implement Canada's commitment to humanitarian aid to the developing world.

On the 20th anniversary of the International Development Research Centre, we extend congratulations to the board of governors and the staff of the IDRC on a job well done. We also congratulate former Prime Minister Lester Pearson and the Parliament of the day for their foresight in establishing the centre.

IDRC is also to be congratulated on its success to adhering to the development principles laid down 20 years ago at its inception. These principles targeted assistance for the poorest people and stressed aid to developing countries to help them create their own long-term solutions to pressing developmental problems.

The IDRC's practice of assisting with research at the local level, especially the supporting of promising young scientists for developing countries, is a logical and sensible approach to meeting the needs of Third World countries to overcome the cycle of poverty. Getting aid to the right people is always a concern. IDRC seems to have successfully met that challenge.

New Democrats call on the Secretary of State for External Affairs to increase the funding to IDRC to the 5 per cent of the ODA target originally set for IDRC and to increase ODA funding quickly to the UN target of .7 per cent of Canada's GNP. We believe the Department of External Affairs, CIDA, and IDRC could extend the value of Canada's ODA by working much more closely together in sharing experience and expertise.

I hope that the International Development Research Centre will use its 20th anniversary to analyse its impact and assist all Canadians to understand the tremendous value of Canadian Official Development Assistance.

In closing, I want to congratulate Mr. Ivan Head, IDRC's president, on his appointment to the Order of Canada last evening. This honour reflects well on the good work done by Mr. Head, the board, and the staff of IDRC.