

I turn next to the matter of aid. Of course, aid is not something that can be confined in a Commonwealth context. That is because it has always been recognized that there is a need to mobilize resources on a much greater scale than the Commonwealth itself is able to command if the task of Commonwealth development is to be tackled effectively. But I also believe it is fair to say that there has never been any disposition in the Commonwealth to look at this matter of aid in any exclusive spirit. That certainly was not the position taken at Colombo in 1950 when the first great Commonwealth initiative in this field was launched.

Commonwealth governments took the lead at that time because of their special ties with Southeast Asia. They took the lead because three-quarters of the people in that area were living in Commonwealth countries. But it was contemplated from the beginning that all countries in the area which were not members of the Commonwealth should be invited to participate on equal terms in whatever plan could be devised to lead to international action. And that is precisely what has happened over the years.

This is a point of more than academic importance to Canada. The problem of development is indivisible. It is crucial to large areas of our present-day world. The Commonwealth encompasses a great part of the so-called developing world and what we do there will inevitably have beneficial results. But the problem transcends the Commonwealth and we have thought it right, in particular, for Canada's aid programmes to reflect the bilingual and bicultural facts of our national life and the special capacity this gives us to be of assistance to French-speaking countries in the developing regions of the world. Accordingly, our efforts will continue to be directed towards increasing the proportion of Canadian assistance going to these countries.

Canada has taken a leading part in the development of aid programmes in one Commonwealth framework or other. Our contribution to the Colombo Plan since its inception now totals more than half a billion dollars. In 1958 we launched a specifically Canadian aid programme directed to the Commonwealth areas of the Caribbean. In 1960 we became partners in a Special Commonwealth Africa Aid Programme, which is a counterpart in Africa of the Colombo Plan in Asia. Our aid in all these directions is expanding. We recognize that this is the right course to pursue if we are to give meaning and substance to the concept of the Commonwealth partnership. It is also the course of self-interest. For we cannot expect, over the longer term, to assure our security or our prosperity in conditions where two-thirds of the world's population live on the margins of deep and dire poverty.

I said a moment ago that aid is not something that can be confined in a Commonwealth context. That is certainly also true of trade. Our individual economies in the Commonwealth are now much more highly diversified than they were at one time. And the trend in that direction is continuing. Moreover, our effective trading world has expanded significantly over the years. As a result, it is no longer possible for our various economic interests and requirements to be accommodated within any closed economic system. And so we have come to recognize, as members of the Commonwealth, that it is in our common interest to press for the freeing of world trade on the broadest possible basis, for a world trading system which enables each of us to meet our requirements from the most