

World Food Program

Canada is an ardent defender of the World Food Program (WFP). We consider it one of the most outstanding successes within the United Nations system. We believe that many countries share our confidence in the program, and the significant increase in contributions which has come with the WFP's development over the years supports this conviction. It is noteworthy that the program has always, whether in periods of abundance or in periods of want, been able to handle commodities in a constructive manner to benefit the poorer people in the developing countries. We know that, while providing this assistance to the most deprived, the program has been also encouraged direct participation by the recipients in the efforts aimed at improving their own situation. The incentives provided by the WFP to that end are valuable, and the motivation generated by its activities in the areas of food for work and of food for the vulnerable groups, merits special recognition. We are also happy that the WFP has worked to develop and implement evaluation techniques, and that it co-operates in constructive fashion with other United Nations institutions.

Food Problems: Report of the World Food Council

I will now discuss the World Food Council report on the deliberations of its fourth session. My government attaches very special importance to the work carried out by the Council in its capacity as a higher committee for review of food policies. For this reason Canada will be very happy to host the next session of the Council in 1979.

Food Production

We are doing our part to help increase food production in the poorest countries, by increasing the proportion of our bilateral aid programs devoted to agriculture, and by pledging \$33 million to the International Fund for Agricultural Development during its first three years of existence. We are aware of the importance of increasing food production in the less developed countries, and we have accordingly given high priority to agricultural and rural development in our development assistance program, both bilaterally and multilaterally. Nevertheless, Canada still has reservations regarding the suitability and usefulness of setting external aid targets, such as the 8.3 billion dollars. In another connection, Canada considers that the first responsibility for increasing food production falls to each of the countries affected. They must be prepared to give the necessary priority to agriculture in their development plans and in their requests for assistance.

Food security

Canada supports the objective of world food security and the related principle of maintaining cereal reserves. We believe that reserve stock arrangements should be concluded within the framework of a new international wheat agreement; in this way food security needs and market stability could be brought into harmony to a large extent. We consider that if the benefits are shared by all, so should the costs be shared. At present, it is the exporters who must bear the costs of building reserve stocks; in all fairness, importers, especially those in the developing countries, should assume some of these costs. It is