

is such that their most pressing needs are very different from those of the more-advanced developing countries.

With regard to Canada's development assistance efforts, I see Canada's aid programmes continuing to focus on the poorest countries. Our contribution will increasingly be based on our own special areas of expertise, related to what we can best contribute. Bilateral aid programmes will concentrate on three priority sectors: agriculture, energy and human resources. It is in these sectors that Canadian capacities based on Canadian expertise and future needs of developing countries best coincide.

I foresee a continued shifting of emphasis from traditional forms of aid -- food aid and large infrastructural projects -- to forms of assistance which aim at better developing human skills.

TRANSLATION

There is a real prospect of a food crisis in the 1980s. While international trade in food products may have increased dramatically in recent decades, it is disturbing to note that many nations which were previously self-sufficient in staple products -- even exporters of them -- have become today reliant on imports. With regard to food aid, the general thrust of Canada's new projects is to help develop the capabilities of LDC's (least-developed countries) to become self-reliant both in terms of food and in the various inputs into agriculture such as seeds and fertilizers -- so that dependencies on agricultural imports can be broken. In 1975, 6% of bilateral aid went to this kind of assistance while in 1981 the figure is 25%, with plans for even greater increases.

Energy is a second priority area of focus for Canada. Approximately 20% of our bilateral aid now goes into energy-related projects. Our major contributions in this regard have been in hydro-electricity and forestry, although a variety of new aid channels have been established. Examples in this regard are Petro-Canada International, an emergency balance of payments facility, and several other new mechanisms.

Two and one-half billion of the world's poorest people, the great majority of whom live in rural areas, depend for almost all of their energy needs upon wood and agricultural residues -- the so-called non-commercial fuels.