

international aid. Lester B. Pearson, a Nobel Peace Prize winner and a former Canadian Prime Minister, headed a seven-country commission which did so. Mr. Woods' successor, Robert S. McNamara, summed up its conclusion: "Half of humanity is starving at this very moment. There is less food per person on the planet today than there was thirty years ago in the midst of a worldwide depression."

The world's population is now 3.9 billion. By the century's end it will be between six and seven billion, and most of the additional people will be in low-income countries. The changing consumer patterns in more prosperous countries are making things worse. The least efficient use of grain is as feed for livestock. The wealthier countries, including the Soviet Union and the East European bloc and Japan, are eating more meat—consumption in Western Europe has grown at a rate of over 3 per cent a year, in Eastern Europe and the USSR at a 3.7 per cent rate, and in Japan at a rate of more than 11 per cent. In North America people eat five times as much meat as is eaten in Japan, and their consumption is also expanding, at a rate of 2.2 per cent annually.

The "grand assize" report of 1968 had one major result: The Canadian Parliament established the International Development Research Centre in Ottawa. The Centre has an international board; Pearson was its first president and another Canadian, W. David Hopper, is its present one. It is financed through the Canadian

International Development Agency. The IDRC aim, in the words of President Hopper, is to help to "open vast new frontiers through science to provide an assurance that all can eat." It takes the form of long-range cooperative research programmes; IDRC funds and knowledge supplement local efforts to achieve specific goals. Over two hundred projects have been initiated to date, and are aimed, directly or indirectly, at making each of the world's regions—particularly the tropical and near-tropical regions where so much of the world's poverty is concentrated—self-sufficient.

Additional information on the topics discussed in this issue of CANADA TODAY/D'AUJOURD'HUI is available from the following organizations:

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