

“Global” Co-operation

Links of that sort, which are being multiplied between countries, have given a much more concrete meaning than before to what is called the “international community”. As a result, the world is being transformed so rapidly these days that it is often spoken of as the “global village”. Looked at in this way, the international relations of Canada, as of all other industrialized countries, appear in a new light — for example, “aid” can no longer be viewed as “a one-way street”. Since 1974, important international discussions have been making it increasingly obvious that solutions to the many problems of the wealthy countries — from oil-supplies to essential foodstuffs, and even the keeping of peace — can be found only in collaboration with developing countries. “Love, or die together — there is no other resort,” said Albert Camus concerning human destiny. Co-operation, like the context in which it operates, cannot be other than “global”. This is the first point in the Canadian Co-operation Strategy for 1975-1980. The involvement of Canada in international development is defined as a co-ordinated use of all the country’s appropriate and available resources, whether they be public or private, industrial, commercial or agricultural. The Departments of Industry, Trade and Commerce, of Agriculture and of National Health and Welfare, to mention no more, besides their constant concern for improvement in their respective activities, are seeing to it that they contribute, to the greatest possible extent, to the success of the efforts being made by the countries of the Third World to emerge from under-development.

It may well be necessary to arrive at such a “multidimensional approach”. After a decade and a half devoted by the United Nations to international development, it is absolutely established that the transfer of resources on preferential terms from rich countries to poor countries — what is called aid in the strict sense of the term — has not prevented the gap between the former and the latter from growing. From 1970 to 1975, the Third World as a whole suffered a drop in its purchasing power of about \$14 billion. The developing countries did not await this statement by the World Bank to complain about the deterioration of exchange-rates, so far as they themselves were affected, on world markets. In 1973, one African country, Zambia, calculated that the Government of Canada, in its “Strategy 1975-1980”, advocated a comprehensive approach to co-operation