

nutritional status (not just food production), and the record of rural investment, land reform, and employment will provide the key bench-marks of development progress for poor people and for all of us.

Mr. Chairman, Canada has been and remains a strong supporter of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Agricultural Research Institutions, and we commend them for the excellent work they are doing.

The WFP, in particular, is an example of a United Nations' success story. When it began as an experiment in 1962, member countries pledged \$90 million. For 1979 and 1980, Canada alone will contribute \$95 million for each year. This contribution reflects Canada's concern for the current world food situation, our awareness of our international responsibilities, and our approval of the record of this programme. We like the programme because its objectives are to get food to those who need it most and because it has been most imaginative in utilizing food aid as direct assistance for agricultural development, for improving nutrition, for encouraging more children to attend school, for food scholarships to be used at vocational training centres, for getting governments involved in sound welfare programmes. We were, of course, very pleased that the United Nations and FAO saw fit to appoint a Canadian, Gerry Vogel, as Executive Director of the WFP; we cannot fail to commend him and his staff for the excellent work they are doing.

Mr. Chairman, developed countries can help provide a healthy external environment for food and agricultural development in developing countries, and we can contribute skills and resources where requested to reinforce well-planned national efforts for socio/economic transformation. In the end, however, we remain only junior partners in the tasks of development and combating hunger.

Canada will be prepared to continue to help meet emergency food needs, as in the terrible crisis now gripping Kampuchea. We should have an important role in helping to bridge transitional food gaps and underwrite food security machinery. More than anything, however, I believe that in the coming decade Canadians will be impatient to concentrate our resources on helping those countries which are unmistakably committing their own political will and their own material investment to feeding themselves. Surely we can agree that the objective of eradicating hunger must come first, from the viewpoint of basic needs, human rights and international co-operation for development.