

This review goes much beyond the activities of the Canadian International Development Agency, for which we are now framing a new set of operational guidelines for the next five years. It encompasses commercial policy -- both the modalities of our participation in the multilateral trade negotiations now going on in Geneva and the instrumentalities of our bilateral trade with developing countries. It encompasses also our approach to international commodity agreements, the ways and means by which Canadian technology is made available to developing countries, the framework within which Canadian enterprise can participate in the industrialization of the Third World. We are seeking, of course, arrangements that will be beneficial to developing countries; but we are also seeking those arrangements that will be the least costly in terms of Canadian interests. For, if we are really to abandon our exclusive reliance on the aid relationship to accelerate international development, then a greater element of mutuality must gradually be introduced into our overall relationship with developing countries. We are asked to open more liberally our markets to the manufactured products of the Third World; but, if we do so, I think it would be reasonable to expect developing countries to keep in mind the textile workers in Quebec, the small assembly plants in the Maritimes, the farmers in the Prairies. We are asked to ensure that commodity producers in the Third World receive fair prices for their exports; but, if we do so, I think it would be reasonable to expect them to recognize that our economic well-being also depends heavily on the export of primary commodities. And, if developing countries want us to take account of their interests as consumers of wheat, say, then perhaps they should keep in mind that Canadians are heavy consumers of sugar, coffee and other tropical products.

You may ask: Why should they do so? Are they not incomparably poorer than we are? Are we not rich enough, developed enough, both to assist the developing world and to look after our own interests?

In the abstract, there may be some merit in that line of reasoning; but in the real world, it leads nowhere. No Government of Canada could alter its economic policies in favour of developing countries unless it were supported by the Canadian electorate; and the Canadian electorate is made up of workers and farmers from Quebec, the Maritimes, the Prairies and other regions. These workers will not support policies that would deprive them of their jobs overnight; but I believe they would support adjustments in the Canadian economy that would gradually make room for the manufactured products of the Third World, gradually improve their export earnings from raw materials, and gradually develop in those Canadian regions that would be affected new industries that might better reflect the country's fundamental trade advantages and whose products could be exported in