

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



INFORMATION DIVISION
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CANADA'S FOREIGN AID PRIORITIES

A Statement by Mr. Paul Gérin-Lajoie, President of the Canadian International Development Agency, to the International Development Assistance Sub-Committee of the Commons Standing Committee on External Affairs and Defence, February 4, 1971.

...My predecessor appeared before your Committee in mid-December, and during his testimony Mr. Strong covered in some detail the events of the last 20 months in which CIDA had been involved. Before the end of today's meeting, I will make available to members an annex, compiled with the help of my senior officers, which lists the highlights of CIDA operations during 1970. In my testimony today I shall look to the future, to the challenges ahead, as I define them. Since I am assuming the presidency of CIDA at the same time as the start of the Second Decade of International Development, it is particularly fitting that I look upon this responsibility with CIDA as a new challenge which will involve taking a number of new initiatives. At the same time, I will determine the basic objectives of CIDA in the light of the broad policy statements which have been set down in the Government's foreign policy review. These broad policy statements, set down last year, are being given greater precision by the work of Parliament, and of your Sub-Committee and Standing Committee.

I do not think of this as a personal challenge for myself, but as a challenge which is accepted and taken up as a collective responsibility by CIDA management and staff, and coming under the ultimate responsibility of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, of the Cabinet and Parliament. But, of course, I have a prime responsibility to identify as clearly as possible with this challenge.

Now I should like to speak in more detail about these challenges, and about the priorities for CIDA as I see them today. I should list five major priorities:

- (1) Taking fuller account of the local and social impact of our assistance;