



# Statements and Speeches

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## CANADA ADOPTS A NEW DEVELOPMENT-ASSISTANCE STRATEGY

A Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, on November 6, 1975, to the House of Commons Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence.

...I welcome the formation of this subcommittee, and for two reasons. In the first place, Canada, like other wealthy nations, finds itself at a crucial point in its relations with the developing countries. After 25 years of what used to be called "foreign aid", we are facing a whole new set of circumstances, calling for new solutions to new problems. The various options open to us all have far-reaching consequences, not only for our foreign policy but for our national life as well.

The second reason why I welcome the formation of this subcommittee is the broad mandate given it in the reference by Parliament, the reference of June 17. Not only is the Committee empowered to report upon the full range of international development policies but it is asked to do so with particular reference to the economic relations between developed and developing countries. Parliament has thus shown itself aware of the fact that international development co-operation encompasses an area beyond aid transfers and involves our entire relationship with developing nations. I shall come back to this point in more detail later. In this initial meeting of the subcommittee, I want to assure you of the full co-operation of the Department of External Affairs and of CIDA in the work of the Committee.

I wish today to speak about our development-assistance program, about broader questions involved in our economic relations with developing countries and about the role of the subcommittee. The broad mandate given to this subcommittee is entirely appropriate, as it reflects the growing sophistication and widening influence of Canada's international development co-operation from its modest beginnings 25 years ago.

You will recall that the Canadian aid program began more or less as a family affair. After India, Pakistan and Ceylon shed their colonial status in the late 1940s, an awareness soon emerged that political autonomy would be difficult to sustain without rapid and intensive economic and social development. In order to support that development, Canada joined Britain, Australia, New Zealand

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