



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES OF FOREIGN AID

An Address by the Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the Memorial Assembly at Macdonald College, Ste Anne de Bellevue, Quebec, February 9, 1965.

I am honoured by your invitation to follow a series of such eminent and distinguished speakers in giving this annual memorial address.

Increasingly, over the past several years, it has become clear that the major challenge that is facing our generation is that of economic under-development which is a condition in which some two-thirds of the inhabitants of this planet find themselves. So long as this condition persists; so long as millions upon millions of human beings continue to be exposed to poverty, hunger and endemic disease; so long as the natural aspirations of newly emergent nations for a better life for their peoples remain circumscribed by a lack of resources and a lack of skills; so long as the world remains so unequally divided into areas of affluence and areas of indigence, there cannot be any expectation of true international peace and stability.

Because the problem of under-development is one which has implications far beyond the areas where under-development is prevalent, the means of meeting and overcoming that problem must be international in scope. Foreign aid is one of the most important avenues of approach to the problem of under-development and it is to the purposes and principles of foreign aid that I should like to address myself this evening.

I think it is fair to say that there has been broad and generous support among all segments of the Canadian people for the principle of foreign aid. Here and there, nevertheless, the query is raised whether charity should not rightly begin at home. It is not an unreasonable query and it is certainly one to which an answer cannot be left in abeyance.

The answer hinges to some extent on the definition which we give to the term charity. I suppose the most common usage we make of the term is in the sense of "helping the helpless". In that definition, however, charity has little in common with the purpose of foreign aid, which is to provide the conditions in which the developing countries are enabled to help themselves. We do not assume that the developing countries are helpless.