

The purpose of our meeting this morning is to discuss the estimates of the Department of External Affairs and of CIDA, which you have before you. What I have to say by way of introduction will be brief.

Two years ago, the Government pointed out in its review of foreign policy that developing and managing foreign policy was going to become more complex in the seventies. Events continue to bear this out. The volume and range of contacts between Canada and the world go on increasing. This is certainly true of the Federal Government. But it is equally true of other levels of government, of the private as well as the public sector, and of individuals as well as organizations. All these levels of Canadian interest must be served. Organizing to serve them is a challenge in itself, quite apart from the policy problems involved. Steady progress has been made in improving the machinery which is at the Government's disposal for this purpose. You may hear something of the details from the Under-Secretary, since he is also Chairman of the Interdepartmental Committee on External Relations.

In the past year we have opened a mission in Algeria, and taken the first steps towards opening missions in Zambia and Bangladesh. The Organization of American States has accepted our application for Observer Status and our mission to that Organization in Washington opened last week. The press has raised the question of why our Embassy to the United States in Washington should not undertake this responsibility. The answer, for once, is a simple one. Double accreditation to the United States Government and to the OAS is not acceptable to the OAS. In any event, as members who have been in touch with our Embassy will know, the Ambassador and his staff are already working at maximum capacity.

Canada is soon to become a full member of the Inter-American Development Bank, and, in line with our declared intention to play our full part in the Inter-American System, has joined a number of the agencies making up that System. Bilateral contact with the countries of Latin America has not been ignored. At the official level senior officers of my Department have carried out a programme of visits and at the ministerial level the first meeting of the Joint Canada-Mexico Committee was held in Ottawa.

The anticipated enlargement of the European Common Market is well on the way to completion, a development of first importance to Canada. The frequency and intensity of our contacts with the European Economic Commission and with member governments is increasing, and we are working towards a more systematic mode of consultation. I am glad to be able to say that the concentrated effort to change European attitudes to Canada undertaken two years ago has