

Top Secret documents from 1956-57 shed light on Suez Crisis

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has published another volume in its series *Documents on Canadian External Relations*. The new publication sheds fresh light on the Suez Crisis, which erupted 45 years ago in July 1956.

Drawing from the Department's Top Secret and Confidential files, Volume 22 tells the story of the Suez Crisis from Canada's perspective. Among other things, it traces the efforts of Secretary of State for External Affairs Lester B. Pearson to prevent a major war in the Middle East. For his work, Pearson was awarded the 1957 Nobel Peace Prize.

Other issues documented in the volume include Canada's activities in NATO

in 1956-57, and Canadian efforts to mediate between the developed and developing worlds.

Volume 22 of *Documents on Canada's External Relations* is available from:

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DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

In **1999**, the most recent year for which figures are available, the number of children born throughout the world totalled **129 million**. Over **116 million** of the births occurred in developing countries. In **Canada**, the number of births was **343 000**.

In **1960**, the **mortality rate under age 5** was **33** per 1000 births in Canada. By **1999** the rate had dropped to **6** per 1000 births. That put Canada in **165th** place worldwide. **Sierra Leone** ranked **first** with **316** deaths per 1000 births.

In **1999**, **life expectancy** was **79 years** in Canada, compared with **51 years** in the **least developed countries**. In the same year, life expectancy averaged only **49 years** in **sub-Saharan Africa**.

The per capita **gross national product (GNP)** was **\$40 141** in **industrialized countries** (**\$29 648** in **Canada**) in **1999**. In the **least developed countries**, the GNP per capita was a mere **\$401**.

The scale of the **HIV/AIDS** pandemic now exceeds the worst projections of **1990**, especially in **sub-Saharan Africa**. Already, **AIDS has orphaned** more than **13 million children** worldwide, and that figure may reach **30 million** before the end of the decade. In the hardest-hit countries, from **half** to more than **two thirds** of the **15-year-olds** alive today will eventually die of the disease.

Source: *The State of the World's Children 2001: Early Childhood*.
New York: United Nations Publications, December 2000. 116 pp. ISBN 9280636332.

In our **NEXT ISSUE**

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Appearing in early December, our next issue of **Canada World View** will focus on human security. Among the topics to be covered: a follow-up on the UN Special Session on Children; the fall release of the report of the Canada-sponsored International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty; and Canada's extensive Human Security Program, specifically designed to address the human dimensions of globalization. ●—

