

CIDA's Maione said the interests of most people in society extend first to their families and then to their communities. Only for a few people do interest spheres extend to encompass broader international issues. Assuming this is true, the CLC would be well advised to redouble its efforts to show workers how events in other countries have an impact, direct or indirect, on their personal circumstances. Improved domestic education and membership communication are tasks the CLC has cast for its immediate future with the hiring of its new staff member.

Preparatory negotiations for the 1981 economic summit to be held in Canada rank high on the agenda. The CLC is anxious to avoid a repetition of this year's Rome trade union summit which was boycotted by the AFL-CIO because it objected to the communist leanings of one of the host Italian labour centrals. The CLC quest for world peace will continue unabated. If this quest bears echoes of the 1960s peace movement, that is because McDermott believes the mood of that activist decade are even more relevant today in the face of confrontations such as Afghanistan and with the prospect of a hawkish Ronald Reagan becoming president of the United States.

The CLC will continue its efforts to ensure that multinational corporations fulfil their social responsibilities. In the same vein, it will work to build international trade union strength as a countervailing force to the power of the multinationals which it sees as the

controlling element of the world economy. Does this mean the CLC will be stronger internationally in the future than it is now? And is it stronger now than it has been in the past? One would have to be a seer to answer the first question. Kalman Kaplansky, retiring director of the International Labour Office in Ottawa and first CLC international affairs director, provides an answer to the second: "There is a tendency (to say that everything starts with yesterday and finishes today. Tomorrow there's a new start. I believe there's a continuity of effort and that the basic thrust of the international involvement of the trade union movement of Canada has been there for many years. Kaplansky added: "each individual, each new president, new officials add a new dimension. . .but the seriousness of it the objective, the dedication, has long been in the trade union movement of Canada for a very long time."

Even though the trade union commitment has existed for years, McDermott believes the government is just starting to take that commitment seriously. "I think they discovered that we aren't just busybodies who don't know what we are doing; they're quite surprised at the expertise and the sophistication that they discovered in us," he said. "The trouble is, we haven't had the dialogue we should have had. We were perceived as posturing all the time. And they had no real appreciation of the role we are capable of playing or, indeed, of the role that we are playing. But they are beginning to understand."

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