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PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES OF FOREIGN AID

"Because the problem of under-development is one which has implications far beyond the areas where under-development is prevalent," the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, told the Memorial Assembly at Macdonald College, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec, on February 9, "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...."

Mr. Martin's discussion of the Canadian conception of a fruitful programme of foreign aid follows:

"...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. Nor is that assumption shared by these countries themselves. They recognize that the major responsibility for bringing their economies to the stage of self-sustaining growth must be theirs. All they ask is that the international community co-operate with them in sustaining the efforts they themselves are making and in providing the climate

and conditions in which they can mobilize their own resources to the most beneficial effect.

"Still, it is arguable that foreign aid does involve the use of national resources - in our case, Canadian resources - and that these resources might be used, as a matter of first priority, to combat poverty at home before they are directed to combat poverty abroad. This is an argument which we cannot dismiss lightly, particularly when we have in mind the findings of some recent surveys into the persistence of poverty in our own country.

CANADIAN POVERTY AND FOREIGN AID

"How do we reconcile the persistence of poverty in Canada with the provision of foreign aid? There are those who would argue that poverty is a relative conception. They would say that, in any community in which there are substantial disparities of living standards, those at the bottom of the scale have a claim to be regarded as falling within the poverty range. In one recent survey, for example, destitution - that is to say, the lowest rung of the ladder of poverty - is defined in terms of a *per capita* income of \$1,000 or less. If we were to take this as some sort of absolute standard, we should have to conclude that, in 1960, 54 countries, with an aggregate population of some 1,548,000,000, or roughly 80 per cent of the total population of the free world, were destitute.

LIVING STANDARDS DRAW APART

"When we come to consider the so-called developing countries, we find that their *per capita* in 1960 averaged \$130. This represented an advance of a