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FEDERAL AND QUEBEC GOVERNMENTS COOPERATE  
ON MAJOR AID PROJECT

The Honourable Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Honourable Marcel Masse, Quebec Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs announced today that the federal government and the Government of Quebec have agreed to work together on the implementation of an economic and social development project in Morocco in which Canada has undertaken to participate at the request of the Moroccan government.

This new example of cooperation involving an international development project is a welcome event in the context of federal-provincial relations. This is a rural development project in northern Morocco in the province of Tétouan; the project is part of a broad plan for rural economic development in the eastern Rif (Développement économique et rural de Rif occidental - DERRO) in which several countries are now participating. The Government of Canada will meet the costs of Canadian participation in this project, including the salaries of experts whom the Government of Quebec will assign to the undertaking. The arrangements agreed to between Ottawa and Quebec will allow technical and professional skills of Quebec government experts to be utilized.

When, in February, 1968, the Government of Canada agreed to cooperate with the Government of Morocco in the realization of the DERRO-Tétouan project, a group of Canadian experts recruited by the federal and Quebec governments went to Morocco to carry out a preliminary study of the project. Execution of the project will now be carried out on the basis of close cooperation between the two governments.

The Government of Canada has entrusted the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) with responsibility for implementation of the Canadian share in the DERRO-Tétouan project and for negotiation of the details of this implementation with the Moroccan authorities, through the Canadian Embassy accredited to the Kingdom of Morocco.