

CANADA ACCEPTS INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The following statement was made on October 17 to the United Nations General Assembly by a senior member of the Canadian delegation:

The Canadian delegation, throughout the long discussion on an international development strategy, has sought the elaboration of fundamental and attainable principles which would guide those engaged in the critically important work of economic and social development, towards goals and objectives which were unanimously agreed on and which were both reasonable and practicable.

To a very large extent, that aim has been fulfilled in the draft Strategy for the Second Development Decade. In supporting the Strategy, Canada is reaffirming its commitment to the support of international development as one of the most constructive ways in which Canadians can participate in the international community in this and future decades.

The Canadian Government accepts the International Development Strategy as a declaration of the will and determination of the United Nations and its members to share, as members of the international community, in the processes of economic and social development for all mankind. My Government can, without reservation, pledge itself to pursue policies designed to create a more just and rational world economic and social order, in which equality of opportunity should be as much the prerogative of nations as of individuals within a nation. We accept the goals and objectives of the Decade enunciated in this historic document.

In July of this year, the Canadian Government completed its review of development-assistance policy. As a result, the Government is now committed to making further significant improvements in the scale and quality of its development-assistance program, involving a large volume of support for multi-lateral institutions, substantial untying, the financing of ocean shipping and associated costs, more re-

search on development problems and greater participation by the private sector.

My Government reaffirms its support for the 1 percent volume target as an objective for the total flow of financial resources to developing countries and accepts, as a new objective, the target of 0.70 per cent of GNP for official development assistance.

INCREASE IN COMMITMENT

My Government is, moreover, as a matter of declared policy, committed to increase the amount of funds allocated to international development assistance over the coming years and to move towards the internationally-accepted targets. Canada will attach the highest priority to increases in its official development assistance, which we shall continue to provide mainly in the form of outright grants and long-term interest-free loans.

We attach high priority to this form of assistance because of its clear development purpose, because it is the portion of total flows over which governments have direct control, and because in our view it provides the best basis for comparing the contributions of individual countries to the international development effort.

We firmly believe the development process must be insulated against fluctuations in the allocation of development assistance that might arise from budgetary or financial considerations. Next year, for example, Canada's official development assistance will increase by about 17 per cent, or almost double the recent rate of increase in our national income.

My delegation believes that this historic document should receive the unanimous approval of the Assembly and, conscious of the high principles which it enunciates, and from the most compelling of motives, my delegation supports the adoption of the Strategy for International Development.

NEW HELICOPTER FACILITIES

Mr. Donald S. Macdonald, Minister of National Defence, announced recently that the Defence Department would construct hangars and maintenance facilities at four Canadian bases for the operation of tactical transport and light observation helicopters on order for the Canadian Forces. Beginning early next year, the helicopter facilities will be built at Canadian Forces bases at Gagetown, New Brunswick, Valcartier, Quebec, Petawawa, Ontario, and Namao, Alberta. They are scheduled for completion in the autumn of 1971.

Facilities at each base will include a hangar

with flight-planning centre, lecture-rooms, shops and offices, a helipad, aprons and taxiways and associated lighting, electrical and water services. At Gagetown, where the Combat Arms School will undertake training of all land-operations helicopter pilots, the new facilities will include accommodation for a field technical-training unit.

The total cost of the construction program is estimated at between \$4 million and \$5 million.

The Canadian Forces will begin taking delivery next year of 50 twin-engine tactical transport and utility helicopters and 74 light observation helicopters for employment with Mobile Command. The aircraft will operate with the Command's three combat groups in Canada.