

velopment. Today, with the systems approach to the identification of problems and the search for solutions it has become feasible to use scientific and technological resources deliberately to induce and accelerate economic and social change....

Much of the basic technology of our age has been developed under the stimulus of two world wars, the space race and the nuclear arms race. The rewards inherent in the market economy have provided powerful commercial incentives for the adaptation of this technology to the development of new consumer products. There is no similar immediate incentive for the application of this technology to the economic and social problems of the developing countries. The gap can be filled through assistance programs which are specially designed to provide the impetus required to bring these resources to bear on fundamental development needs. Only in this way can the necessary multipliers be introduced into the development process.

IDRC SET UP

As we enter the Second Development Decade, legislation has been passed by the Canadian Parliament for the establishment of an International Development Research Centre.⁽¹⁾ This is a radical new departure in Canada's contribution to the global struggle areas of the world. Later on in the week you will be introduced to the newly-formed International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

The setting-up of this Centre results from two years of careful investigation and planning by the Canadian International Development Agency with the active assistance and participation of a number of other government departments and experts. A great deal of care has been taken to design an institution that will complement the work that is being carried on by others in this field and I have been assured that Canada's initiative in creating this body has been warmly welcomed by the entire international development community.

By creating the Centre and pledging minimum financial support of \$30 million over the first five years, the Canadian Government has sought to demonstrate in a very practical way that it recognizes the urgency and the necessity for research into the problems of development.

The Centre will be concerned with the application of science and technology to the problems of improving the overall quality of life, and, unlike most development agencies, it will be a research centre — "problem-oriented", multi-disciplinary and international.

Most of the problems confronting the Centre will require the co-operative efforts of the physical, the natural and the social sciences. The very nature of the development process dictates that the special skills of the life scientist, the physicist, the chemist

and the engineer be in harmony with those of the economist, the sociologist and the anthropologist. The Centre will bring the physical, the natural and the social sciences together with practical and managerial skills in a multi-disciplinary attack on particular development problems.

The primary purpose of the Centre will, of course, be to assist the developing nations of the world. It will be basically a Canadian institution with an important international dimension. The chairman and half of the members of the Centre's board of governors are to be Canadian as will the majority of its executive committee. Both the board and the staff will include specially-qualified people from various parts of the world, including the developing countries.

IDRC AIMS

Although the Centre's interest priorities will be decided by its board of governors, research areas suggested to date by the Canadian International Development Agency and the United Nations Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development include: the development of new techniques for identifying and evaluating mineral resources (a field in which Canada has special expertise), the development of genetically superior plants of high protein value, the study of some specific aspects of the world population problem and the development of efficient labour-intensive, industrial techniques and machines.

These are some proposals. The fundamental responsibility of the Centre will be to identify urgent and practical research development problems, and to plan and co-ordinate action programs.

By its charter, the Centre can enlist the services of individuals, public or private institutions and agencies capable of conducting research in the natural or social sciences or in any area of technology which applies to the needs of the development world.

In providing effective research programs it is our hope that the International Development Research Centre will become an important facet of Canada's contribution to the establishment of the economic and social parity so eagerly sought between and within nations.

I extend to all of you my good wishes for an agreeable and constructive meeting over the next few days. You are grappling with some aspects of one of the fundamental problems facing the world community. I know that you bring a great deal of collective knowledge, experience and determination to your task and I am confident that you will succeed in pushing forward the frontiers of understanding of the development process. On behalf of the Canadians present, I particularly appreciate the opportunity we have at this gathering to draw stimulation and advice in the early stages of setting up an International Development Research Centre.

(1) See CWB, Vol. 25, No. 5, dated February 4, 1970, P. 1