



CANADA

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 66/32

AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

An Address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, on July 20, 1966, to the Ministerial Meeting of the Development Assistance Committee in Washington, D.C.

First, Mr. Chairman, I should like to congratulate you on your report, which once again provides us with objective comments on the merits and shortcomings of our collective aid effort. You have also given us guide-lines that will be useful in pursuing the fundamental aid objectives that are the subject of today's discussion.

We meet in new surroundings, having accepted the invitation of the Government of the U.S.A. to conduct this year's deliberations in Washington, D.C. We welcomed this invitation as providing an opportunity to pay tribute to the generosity and leadership of the Government and people of the U.S.A. in the collective effort to promote economic development and ameliorate the lot of the developing countries. Our presence here also suggests the extent to which we necessarily look to the U.S.A. in the future expansion of this effort and in evolving new and imaginative measures for dealing with problems of development, old and new.

I take great pleasure in welcoming to this ministerial meeting a fellow Commonwealth member, Australia, a country which was seated with us at the founding conference of the Colombo Plan. It is encouraging to see the growth of this circle of nations committed to increase and improve their aid through the process of consultation and co-ordination.

The performance - both individually and collectively - of our group has over the past five years or so provided overwhelming evidence of our determination to play our full role in bridging the gap between rich and poor countries. As the minister responsible in my own country for the conduct of both foreign and aid policies, I am reminded every day that aid not only plays a crucial role in the complex process of economic development but is also a major factor in relations between nations. For this reason, I am today profoundly disturbed by apparent stagnation in our collective efforts to mobilize greater aid resources and put them to effective use. Without a renewal of the upward trend in this effort, there is little chance that we shall succeed in establishing the foundation of lasting peace and stability in the world. This is the opportunity and challenge of today's meeting.