

Canadian programs of assistance to developing countries continued to grow in 1969. The annual review of the Canadian International Development Agency, which is primarily responsible for administering the Canadian aid program, provides a detailed account of Canada's bilateral programs and of its contribution to multilateral assistance activities. As Canadian aid allocations grow, the dialogue between the Aid and Development Division and counterpart officials of the CIDA assumes an increasing importance within the context of aid policy and foreign policy formulation. A prerequisite for the effective administration of the Canadian assistance program is an informed understanding of its implications in the overall context of Canada's relations with the recipient countries. This requires the constant synthesis of the views and expertise of relevant divisions within External Affairs to produce a comprehensive departmental position. The Aid and Development Division is responsible for formulating this synthesis, and communicating it through appropriate channels to the CIDA. This role applies equally to Canadian contributions to multilateral institutions.

Interdepartmental discussions are essential if Canadian aid policy is to take account of varied Canadian interests. The most important forum for the interdepartmental consideration of aid policy is the Canadian International Development Board, which examines basic policy questions and makes recommendations on them to Ministers. Other committees and *ad hoc* working groups meet as the need arises to examine development items in which departments have an interest, such as food aid, country allocations, staffing requirements in the field, or elaboration of a strategy for the second development decade.

Canadian diplomatic missions continued to increase the amount of time given to aid administration, which is a reflection of the prominent position development assistance plays in Canadian relations with a great many developing countries. In 1968, it had become possible to begin sending officials from the CIDA into the field as fully-integrated members of Canadian embassies and high commissions. The number of such assignments grew steadily during 1969.

As a founding member of the Colombo Plan for South and Southeast Asia, Canada was particularly gratified to act as host to the twentieth annual conference of the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee in Victoria, British Columbia. In addition to serving as a forum for the discussions on current issues in international development, the conference was characterized by a remarkable spirit of innovation among the 17 regional and six non-regional countries attending. The year 1969 saw a further projection abroad of Canada's bilingual identity by the strengthening of economic co-operation with *francophone* countries; at the same time, programs in Commonwealth countries continued to grow.

Canada is a significant contributor to a number of multilateral institutions with development-assistance functions. Of these, the United Nations Development Program is of particular importance, since it provides the pre-investment surveys and technical assistance that are required to identify fruitful areas of development. In consultation with the United Nations Division, the Aid and Development Division keeps in touch with the CIDA and other departments about the size and role of Canadian contributions for the support of the UNDP and agencies such as UNRWA and UNICEF.