



Bulletin

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TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE POOR

The following passages are from a welcome address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, at the meeting of Directors of Training and Research Institutes, Montebello, Quebec on July 13:

...I am delighted to welcome to Canada the delegates to this very important conference sponsored by The Development Centre of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). I wish to thank the officials of the Centre for inviting Canada to assist them with this year's meeting of the Directors of Development Training and Research Institutes....

At this meeting you will be addressing yourself to two major issues - unemployment in developing countries and the role of your particular institutes in stimulating economic and social development. These topics are certainly very relevant to the problems that confront the majority of mankind today.

Most people in the Western world today enjoy material conditions of life unparalleled in the annals of human experience. The prospects are for con-

tinuing progress towards significantly higher levels of affluence. To a large extent this has been made possible by the development of science and technology and their application to the processes of industrialization.

If the changes that have taken place in science and technology have on balance been beneficial in social terms it is not because they were consciously designed that way. Economic and social change has occurred as a by-product of scientific and technological change. While the immediate benefits of the technological revolution are apparent to all, it is becoming increasingly evident that they have brought about massive and growing imbalances which threaten to negate all the progress that has been made. Within our own societies there are imbalances in the degree to which various groups and individuals share in the benefits of this progress. In our ecological environment there are imbalances resulting from the pollution of water and air and from the vast concentrations of population in a relatively few urban areas.

SCIENCE TO BRIDGE THE GAP

The greatest imbalance with which we must deal is the vast disparity which exists today between the privileged minority who live in the industrialized nations and the unprivileged majority who live in the less-developed nations of the world. We in the developed countries have been able to multiply our own economic growth so that the income of the average Canadian increases each year by an amount equal to the total annual income of the average person in the less-developed countries. We have helped to introduce to these countries measures for the improvement of health which have reduced their death rates drastically and produced dramatic increases in population which are offsetting their efforts to bring a better life to their peoples.

There is an urgent need for us to relate the benefits accruing from science and technology more directly to the problems of economic and social de-

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