

ment moved into the new building, so that for the first time since the very early days the whole Department was housed under one roof. The new building has already greatly enhanced the capacity of External Affairs to serve the interests of Canadians, and that in itself is a fitting memorial to the Canadian statesman and diplomat whose name it bears.

As the year ended, many Canadians were wondering whether Canada might not be an even more fortunate country than they had imagined and, if so, what this meant for its foreign relations. Clearly, the image of an affluent, wasteful people in a world of want and injustice is not one

Canadians wish to project. The need to conserve and protect natural resources is deeply felt in Canada. But for whose benefit? One answer, of course, lies in the principle of the graduated income tax. The world is far from a system of resource transfers that resembles the income tax, and it may not be desirable to move too far in that direction. Nevertheless, a world of great differences in the quality of people's lives, made the more obvious by an ever-improving communications technology and the sharper by the limits that governments can place on the distribution of non-renewable resources, is bound also to be an insecure and unco-operative world.

In 1973 Canada was engaged in a network of international activities — low-interest loans, technical assistance, regulation of the oceans, arms control, peace-keeping, monetary reform, food aid, energy conservation, etc. — which may be thought of as the international rent Canadians pay to keep the world system in some repair. It is not a high rent, and perhaps most Canadians are hardly aware of it. But they will certainly have to go on paying if they want to keep the quarters they now occupy.



*Queen Elizabeth II officially opened the department's new home, the Lester B. Pearson Building, on August 1.*