

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, today announced the appointment of seven Governors -- four Canadian and three non-Canadian -- to the 21-member Board of Governors of the International Development Research Centre.

The seven Governors are Roger Blais, of Montreal; Peter Green, of Halifax; Ilunga Kabongo, of Zaire; Robert Milne, of Vancouver; Rex Nettleford, of Jamaica; Sir Geoffrey Wilson, of Britain; and William Charles Winegard, of Guelph.

Mr. Nettleford has been a Governor since the Centre was established in 1970, and is being reappointed for a further term. The other six are newcomers to the IDRC Board, whose Chairman is Mr. Louis Rasminsky, former Governor of the Bank of Canada.

The Centre was created by Act of the Canadian Parliament to support research designed to adapt science and technology to the specific needs of the developing countries as determined by them. The Act established the Centre as a public corporation, and provided that its Board of Governors would be appointed by the Canadian Government. It also provided that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and nine other Governors must be Canadian citizens.

On the Centre's first Board (1970-72) the other 10 Governors were drawn from other countries, including six from developing countries. This practice has been continued through the new appointments.

Governors are appointed for a four-year term, but on the first Board six Governors were appointed for only two years, and another six Governors for three years, to ensure a measure of continuity. New appointments were made in June 1973 to replace the first group to retire under this rotation system.

The Governors of this autonomous corporation meet twice yearly to set the priorities of the Centre and to approve projects, and the next meeting is due to take place in Dakar, Senegal, on March 24 to 26. During the first 3½ years of operation the IDRC Board approved support for more than 150 projects involving grants totalling \$28.6 million.

Some biographical details on the seven governors follow:

Roger Blais, 48, is Director of Research Services at the Polytechnic School of Montreal. He was for five years Chief Development Engineer of the Iron Ore Company of Canada in the Schefferville district and personally discovered the Lance Ridge ore body there. From 1968-70 he was chairman of the study group on earth sciences of the Science Council of Canada.