

Sharing Our Future



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Sharing Our Future is the theme that will guide Canada's new official development aid (ODA) program into the next century. Announced in March 1988, the strategy outlines new directions, programs and commitments that will affect and sometimes fundamentally change the way Canadians contribute to world development.

Monique Landry, Minister for External Relations and International Development, noted that the new strategy entitled *Sharing Our Future* "says much about us as a nation, that Canadians accept their responsibility to be partners in building a better world — not only for their children, but for all the world's children."

The centrepiece of the strategy is the new ODA Charter, which establishes four principles to guide Canada's development policy. First, Canada will concentrate its aid on the poorest people and nations through a new eligibility determining formula. Second, the fundamental principle of promoting self-reliance will emphasize human resource development as the central programming thrust of initiatives. Third, the new Charter is designed to ensure that Canadian development priorities prevail. These include

Canadians working to build a better world — for all the world's children.

poverty alleviation, structural adjustment, a greater role for women in development, environmentally sound development projects, security of food, and enhanced availability of energy.

To that end, the ODA policy is more flexible, allowing modifications in the scope and nature of Canadian aid to meet individual nations' unique needs and taking into account human rights performance. Finally, partnerships are being fostered with Canadian and international non-governmental organizations, business and multilateral institutions which plan and implement development programs and projects. One-half of Canada's ODA will go to such initiatives; the other half is committed to the government's bilateral aid.

A series of measures is also included to improve aid delivery. There will be a substantial decentralization of personnel and approval authority to the field. Bilateral aid will reduce the levels of required Canadian procurement from 80 to 50 per cent for sub-Saharan and least-developed countries, and to 66.7 per cent for other developing countries.

New Cancer Test Developed

Following two years of intensive research, a Canadian company Biomira Inc. has developed a new test for diagnosing gastro-intestinal and pancreatic cancer. The new product, called Truquant GI RIA is an easy-to-use, quick and accurate method of testing for cancer, reducing both the absolute time and number of steps involved in lab procedures.

The new test uses a "tracer" protein antibody containing a radio-active particle. The "tracer" can distinguish between different molecular structures and binds to a complex, tumour-associated sugar which is found in greatly elevated levels in cancer patients. In the test, a patient's blood serum and the protein are mixed together in a test tube coated with the special sugar. If cancerous material is present in the serum the antibody will bind to it; if not, the antibody

binds to the test tube. After three hours the test tube is emptied and scanned for radio-active emissions. The resulting readings serve as quantitative measures indicating either the absence, or presence and level of cancerous material.

Truquant GI RIA's short test period of three hours is a major improvement over other commercially available tests which take up to eight hours to produce results. As well, Biomira has also developed a test using similar techniques for the detection of ovarian cancer.

Biomira reports that since the launch of Truquant GI RIA late last year, interest in and sales of the product are growing. Currently, Biomira is negotiating with companies in Japan and Europe for the rights to distribute and use its kits, and expects to garner a large share of these markets.

Mind Games

Calgary was not the only Canadian city to host a major international sporting event this year. While the athletes of the Winter Olympics were competing on Canada's western mountain ranges, chess masters matched wits at the World Chess Festival in Saint John, New Brunswick, on Canada's east coast.

The most prestigious competition of the royal sport ever staged in North America, the month-long festival attracted over 1 000 participants from 38 countries. The élite of the chess world, including current world champion Garry Kasparov, three former champions and most of the world's 50 top-ranked players, thrilled audiences with their classic displays of mental combat.

The crucial candidates matches — the most impor-

tant games in the chess world this year — determined the seven grandmasters who will advance to the quarter finals of the 1990 world championships. To the delight of the audience, Canadian grandmaster Kevin Spraggett staged a stunning victory over Soviet star Andrei Sokolov to win a spot in the semi-finals.

As the competitors played before enthusiastic crowds in Saint John's Trade and Convention Centre, each move was recorded by electronic sensors embedded in the chess board and instantaneously re-created on giant television screens. Sound and motion detectors deployed throughout the hall monitored and warned the crowd when its activity became too brisk or threatened the concentration of the players.