

PRESS RELEASE



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CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, announced that, subject to Parliamentary approval, the Canadian Government intends to contribute \$10,750,000 to the United Nations Development Programme for 1967. The Canadian pledge will be announced in New York today by Mr. D.S. Macdonald, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and Canada's representative to the Second Committee of the Twenty-First Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Canadian pledge represents an increase of \$1,250,000 over the 1966 contribution of \$9,500,000.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was created by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1965, through the merger of the United Nations Special Fund and the Expanded Programme for Technical Assistance. Canada has consistently been one of the leading supporters of both programmes, having contributed \$53,695,000 since their inception.

The technical assistance work of the United Nations Development Programme, largely carried out by agencies of the U.N. family, has grown in effectiveness over the years, and is contributing significantly to the economic and social progress in more than one hundred developing countries. The largest portion of the resources of the United Nations Development Programme, is devoted to pre-investment surveys which have resulted in large scale investments in high-priority development projects. The programme also provides experts, training facilities and technical knowledge to the developing countries. The UNDP plays an increasingly important role in the co-ordination and effective implementation of the assistance activities of the United Nations family in the developing countries.

Growing concern has recently been expressed in various international bodies over the stagnation in the flow of assistance to developing countries at a time when their needs and absorptive capacity are increasing. At this time when the prospective world food situation is the subject of increasing international attention it is important to note that approximately one-half of the UNDP's pre-investment projects are directed at agricultural development.

The increased Canadian contribution is in response to pressing international appeals for increased assistance and reflects Canada's confidence in the valuable work of the United Nations Development Programme.