

Canada Weekly

REF

Volume 5, No. 47

November 23, 1977



Ottawa, Canada

- Foreign aid contributes to better world environment, 1
- Mr. Jamieson visits Mediterranean, 3
- Morocco buys simulators, 3
- Underground housing, 3
- Canadian ambassador in a country of mountains, 4
- Monorail for Winnipeg, 4
- New financial post, 4
- Canadians help search cause of space sickness, 5
- Kidnap victim free — abductors still loose, 5
- Petrol corporations monitoring bill, 6
- Amateur sport funding proposed, 6
- News of the arts — exhibition, literature, theatre, radio, 7
- News briefs, 8

Foreign aid contributes to better world environment

The following excerpts are from an address by Michel Dupuy, recently appointed President of the Canadian International Development Agency, to the Empire Club of Toronto on November 3:

* * * *

A common perception of foreign aid in general, and of CIDA in particular, is that we are handing out our tax dollars to assist the poorer countries of the world, and that we are doing this out of altruism, human solidarity and a moral imperative.

Far from being apologetic, we, as Canadians, should be proud of it: these are good reasons. Do we want to live in a world of starvation, violence, poverty and destruction? No, because this is not what Canada is made for. We know that in what is fast becoming a dramatically interdependent world, we cannot let more than half of this world go from bad to worse without taking an extremely short-sighted and wasteful view of our own future.

Thousands of Canadians who have served abroad have brought to their work a devotion, an understanding and a sense of duty to mankind which is all too rare in international relations. It is said by some that we are wasting our money on aid, but I am glad that no one has ever suggested that these devoted people are wasting their lives. The developing countries themselves are not mistaken. They have recognized and praised the disinterested character of Canadian aid. We owe this recognition to those Canadians who have made it work: CIDA people who, over the years, have done their best, often in trying circumstances, consultants, teachers, engineers, executives, representatives of provincial governments and, not least, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), who are constantly pioneering new ways of relieving human suffering and of creating prospects for progress....

But there is more to foreign aid than a moral imperative and an enlightened view of human solidarity. The funds expended under that heading reflect our immediate concern about the North/South division



Michel Dupuy... "Our best future lies with a balanced and growing world economy in which developing countries have their rightful place..."

of our planet, the current state of the world economy and the political tensions they are creating. Foreign aid, or its updated version, international development co-operation, serves other legitimate Canadian interests.

Interdependence of nations

Many have described, far more vividly than I could, the risks and dangers inherent to an ever-increasing economic and social gap between rich and poor nations. We do not need the hindsight of historians to appreciate that it is one of the most compelling and dramatic problems of our times. Surely one of the lessons of the recent energy crisis, and of world recession, is that no country is immune from major changes, let alone upheaval, in the world economy. It has long been recognized that the well-being of developing countries is related to that of industrialized countries, but only

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
AFFAIRES EXTERIEURES
OTTAWA
NOV 23 1977
LIBRARY / BIBLIOTHEQUE

710 23/77