

Supply—External Affairs

irredenta on an offshore island are not sufficient for denying a place in the councils of the United Nations to 700 million people.

Canada is also taking a greater interest in the problems of Latin America, which it might well do. We must be prepared to pay a very considerable price for our participation in the affairs of Latin America, and until we fully take stock of the demands that shall be made upon us we should develop our relations on a day to day basis. I support wholeheartedly the granting of long term credits to countries in Latin America. It seems to me that economic and cultural associations are going to be most fruitful and we will probably think very hard before we enter into political arrangements involving the area of Latin America.

The expanded programs of technical and other assistance to developing countries which have been announced by the government are certainly most welcome. The disparities between the developed and less developed world are startling and critical. Despite the efforts which have been made, the gap is not narrowing; it is growing—and because of the state of our economy we can afford to participate more fully in these programs. Personally, I support all the multi-lateral programs of the United Nations and am pleased to see that we have increased our contribution to UNICEF by \$200,000. However, the most fruitful and most likely area where we will participate to a larger extent in aid to developing countries is through bilateral arrangements. The economic development of Canada is a factor which must be related to our contribution in this particular field and it is through bilateral programs that we can ensure that the rate of growth in Canada is enhanced by our participation in the economic growth of the developing countries.

I would also like to say a word about our foreign service. The good name of Canada abroad owes a great deal to men of character, skill and modesty who have laboured for many years in understanding the problems of countries to which they have been posted in representing Canada. It seems to me that the position of this important service should be enhanced and we should take a closer look at the very serious personal problems involved for men and women who take these postings abroad. This service is an important aspect of Canadian policy and it has many unique problems which are not the same as problems facing people in other areas of government. A man who is performing in Canada is certainly not faced with the hard-

ships and the vicissitudes which are often the daily count for those who are representing Canada abroad. We tend to think of the Canadian diplomatic service in terms of the type of career which was open in the 19th century and in the early years of the 20th century. Polite routines are not the essence of the work of Canadian diplomats abroad. They have to familiarize themselves with modes of life often far distant from those of western society. They are the listening posts of Canadian intelligence abroad. For this sensibility and these trials we must make more adequate provision. It is Canada's basic interest to live in a world of peace and a world friendly to our aspirations. In this we must invest our best endeavours.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Chairman, knowing how considerate he is, I am sure the Secretary of State for External Affairs will waste no time in answering the few questions I wish to put to him.

We have learned that the assignment of a certain mission to the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Thompson) was not authorized by an order in council. There are certain things I should like to know with regard to that assignment. For instance, I would—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): May I ask the hon. member a question?

Mr. Ricard: I am not through yet.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I merely wish to know whether the hon. member would care to wait until the end of the general discussion before asking his questions.

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Chairman, I should like to please the minister but I must advise him, with regret, that I cannot postpone my questions, as I shall have to leave.

I know, for instance, the assignment of the mission on which the hon. member for Red Deer was sent is based on good will, co-operation, understanding, and a desire to promote common interests.

I think this is probably the result of the minister's joviality. Up to this point, I feel he deserves some congratulations and a certain measure of admiration from the house.

There are questions which the Secretary of State for External Affairs still has not answered.

He told us when the matter was raised in the house that the appointment of the hon. member for Red Deer was based on the 15 years of experience he had on the dark continent.

[*Mr. Gelber.*]