



CANADA

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 66/38

AID PROGRAMMES AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

An Address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs,
the Honourable Paul Martin, at a Luncheon of the Canadian
Export Association, Toronto, September 14, 1966.

...I accepted your invitation to speak here today with particular pleasure because it gives me the opportunity of talking to those who, like myself, are involved with the world beyond our borders and with the ever-changing patterns of that world.

As one of the world's principal trading nations, Canada's economic health and growth is closely linked with the affairs of others. But it is not for trade alone that we have young men standing guard over the uneasy truce in Cyprus or helping to preserve the balance of power through lending their strength to the North Atlantic Alliance. Peace-keeping and defensive groupings are part of the price we pay willingly in this less-than-perfect world to promote the kind of stability in which all manner of human exchanges can take place for the common good. Today, I would like to tell you about another of our international responsibilities - the part we are playing in the collective campaign against hunger and poverty.

No world can be truly at peace when half its people go to bed hungry each night, when medical relief has yet to be brought to millions, when economic opportunity for so many of our fellow men is restricted to a daily struggle with infertile land or the backbreaking labour of primitive industrial tasks. We would not tolerate these conditions in our own land, not only because they are an affront to human dignity but because they would constitute a choking rein on our progress as a nation.

There are many, in the developed world of the West, who have found to their cost that the seeds of violence and disruption take root in ignorance, poverty and despair. And what cannot be accepted in a single country cannot be allowed to exist in the world of today, where self-containment is nothing more than dangerous delusion.

These thoughts have been expressed before in a 100 different ways by those who have been tirelessly preaching the gospel of international development assistance. But time has not dulled this message nor produced a ready solution to what is perhaps the single greatest challenge presented to our generation. Many remedies have been offered as an instant cure to underdevelopment. All of them bite into a part of the truth, but none offers the panacea for the economic malnutrition suffered by two-thirds of our world.