

ANNEX III

Canadian Policy Statements on Population Assistance

1. Canada's statement at the 1984 UN Conference on Population spoke of the need for "greater efforts on the part of the international community, national governments and NGOs" on population issues.
2. A statement by the Prime Minister in 1985 for a UNFPA publication said that "monitoring population dynamics is an integral part of Canada's development assistance" and that it "supports population activities in its ODA programme" bilaterally, in the UN and by NGOs; but no mention was made of the relative priority to be accorded to population within Canada's ODA or of a greater Canadian effort in the field.
3. A useful "CIDA Policy Framework on Population" approved by ministers in 1987, but not so far published, recommended a "balanced, low-profile approach" with expansion of bilateral programs in family planning, but without neglect of other "activities in the areas of demographic and fertility research, census-taking, mother-and-child care, internal and international migration, refugees, population distribution, training, institutional development, etc." It reiterated that "greater efforts are needed from everyone" and that Canada would support population activities through multilateral (including UNFPA), NGO (including IPPF) and bilateral channels, and added, among other things, the useful statement that "while respecting individual freedoms and responsibilities, we have a collective responsibility to protect the global environment and resource base for future generations". It stressed that "Canada encourages voluntarism, that is to say, free and informed choice in family planning", but that "abortion is not an appropriate method of family planning" and CIDA funds should not be used for such a promotion; rather, they "should be used for family planning as a means to reduce the need for women to have recourse to abortion". The document said there was to be "more active participation in policy-making bodies of international organizations to encourage them to further action" (a theme not noticeably implemented, and not mentioned again until the Government's "Foreign Policy Themes and Priorities 1991-92 Update" quoted in Section IX of this paper). Again nothing was said about the relative priority of population assistance or of any increase in the total.
4. CIDA's basic Sharing Our Future document of 1987 did not list population among its "six development priorities", but did include family planning along with five other items under the first of them, "poverty alleviation"; and some key points from the Policy Framework on Population (#3 above) were reiterated in a short chapter on the subject.
5. Canada subscribed to the 1989 Amsterdam Declaration (see Annex I), with its call inter alia for a doubling of population assistance by 2001, subsequently endorsed by both the OECD/DAC and the UNFPA/UNDP Governing Council, at which Canada was also