

point was made that Canada has a potential to contribute to world peace and security through promoting its culture and values including multiculturalism, democratic governance, and respect for human rights.

- Theodore Cohn (Simon Fraser University) pointed out that sovereignty may appear seamless for an observer from the rich "North" since it is here where decisions about what is seamless and what is not are made (whether the decisions concern trade, flow of capital or the flow of people).

3. CANADIAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

3.1. The Impact of Ethical Values on Canadian Development Assistance, Cranford Pratt (University of Toronto)

Cranford Pratt assessed the impact of ethical values on Canadian foreign aid policy. He pointed out that very few scholarly commentators have identified humanitarian considerations as a major determinant of Canadian aid policies. "A surprisingly wide range of other influences have received emphatic mention," he said.

Pratt traced the rationale of Canada's aid policy to the 1950s. Canadian development assistance was then a product of Cold War alliance politics rather than ethics. The primary purpose of aid was to counter any expansion of Soviet influence. Several other factors contributed to a "very rapid expansion of the Canadian aid program and a sustained effort to ensure that it reached and helped the poorest people and countries." The most fundamental of them was the upsurge in public support for strong social welfare programs in Canada. Other factors included a surge of citizen concern over global poverty and a great increase in the number and strength of Canadian NGOs working on Third World issues. Recognising this, the government presented the aid program as a humanitarian rather than a Cold War enterprise. This rhetoric was, in turn, used by supporters of a generous foreign aid programme to detach aid from the pursuit of commercial and geo-political objectives. Moreover, CIDA recruited from the NGO community, creating a core group of officials within the government bureaucracy who lobbied for a more ethically responsive aid policy. These efforts were aided by a prosperous economy and rising government revenues. The Liberal government's attempts to articulate a foreign policy different from that of the United States in the late 1960's also played a role in the expansion of the Canadian aid programme. As a result of these circumstances, Canadian aid responded significantly to ethical values for about ten years (from 1966 to 1976).

The greater centrality of ethical values in the shaping of Canada's aid program did not last. The OPEC crisis and long-term structural problems in the Canadian economy crowded out any concern for global equity. The Canadian government became increasingly preoccupied with Canada's economic relations with the United States and its membership in the Economic Summit. Canadian development assistance was from then on increasingly subverted to serve Canadian trade and foreign policy interests. Humanitarian and development considerations were