



Statements and Speeches

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CANADA ADOPTS A MULTIDIMENSIONAL APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A Statement to the Parliamentary Subcommittee on International development in Ottawa, on November 25, 1975, by the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. H.B. Robinson.

I am pleased to appear before the Subcommittee today as Chairman of the Interdepartmental Committee on Economic Relations with Developing Countries....

The Minister, when he spoke to you, outlined the evolution of Canada's relations with developing countries and the increasing place such relations have in Canada's foreign policy. He pointed out that Canada, like other wealthy nations, is at a critical stage in its relations with the developing world, that we are facing new circumstances calling for new solutions to new problems, and that the choices we make will have far-reaching consequences not only for our foreign policy but for our national life as well.

I wish to speak today about how -- and in what context -- the Canadian Government is examining these issues and making its choices. I shall do this under three headings: the state of "development" (or development co-operation) today; the Canadian Government's response; and the challenges ahead.

There have been striking events in the dialogue between developed and developing countries during the past two years.

At the Sixth Special Session in April 1974, the radical members of the Third World put forward extreme demands, which were met with a determination on the part of some industrial countries not to concede their position on any of the central issues. The stridency on both sides no doubt reflected concern about how to cope with the combined disruptive effect of inflation, monetary instability, the food shortage, and the abrupt rise in the price of oil. The result of the session was a stand-off and an illusory consensus, a declaration and program of action adopted without a vote but also without the political will to implement it.

The sharp confrontation between developed and developing countries at the Sixth Special Session had serious effects on international co-operation in the months that followed.
