

During 1971, Canada continued to play an active role in international financing institutions, including the Asian and Caribbean Development Banks and the World Bank group. It also participated actively in discussions with other potential donors looking towards the establishment of an African Development Fund in conjunction with the African Development Bank. During 1971, detailed discussions were entered into concerning possible membership in the Inter-American Development Bank, thus reflecting the growing Canadian interest in this area.

Co-ordination of the activities of the Committee on Staffing Requirements to Conduct the Canadian Aid Program Abroad is handled by the Aid and Development Division. In 1971, all Canadian posts responsible for aid administration or liaison were surveyed to determine manpower requirements for aid-related activities. Reflecting the growth in the total program, a number of additional officers were provided by the Department and CIDA to meet the 81 man-years required.

As the primary organ in the UN system for channelling aid to the developing countries, the United Nations Development Program, through its Governing Council, pursued its comprehensive review of organization, programming and capacity to implement programs. Canada has played a positive role in these discussions and substantial progress has been achieved to enable the UNDP to meet the challenge of developing country programs. Canada continued to play an active role in meetings of international deliberative organizations on development, including the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which is the principal forum for consultation and exchanges of information between the major aid-donor countries on development policies and procedures.

Following adoption of the strategy for the Second Development Decade, the UN has been engaged in drafting a framework which will serve as a guide for development policies in the Seventies. Within the UN system, in addition to the pre-eminent role of the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has become a major vehicle for discussion of all development issues, including the diversion of the flow of world trade so that economic disparities will be minimized. The Aid and Development Division has the primary responsibility for co-ordinating Canadian "input" into UNCTAD and for the preparations for the Third UNCTAD, to be held in Santiago in April 1972.

Among the measures advocated to improve the trading position of developing countries is a general preference scheme (GPS) under which the major industrial countries, including Canada, would grant tariff preferences for certain processed agricultural products and semi-manufactured goods on a shared-burden basis. Many of the developed countries introduced their preference schemes late in 1971, and Canada plans to implement its scheme at the earliest possible date. Departmental responsibility for the GPS and other trade measures intended to assist developing countries rests with the Aid and Development Division.

The Division's role in co-ordinating emergency relief assistance provided by Canada to areas of natural or man-made disasters became more urgent during the year as a result of the civil unrest within Pakistan and the India-Pakistan