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CANADA'S EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

The following is the partial text of an address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, on March 27, to the Ontario School Inspectors Association in Toronto:

...Today I wish to say something about what the Government of Canada is doing in support of international development, particularly in the field of education.

As Barbara Ward has suggested, the distinguishing characteristic of our era is the speed with which change is occurring. Rapid change is evident not only in Canada, it is evident also in the recent bewildering geopolitical explosion in Africa and other developing areas of the world, where new nations have been created at a speed unknown in history, and have been simultaneously propelled into a desperate, revolutionary struggle for progress.

If these countries fail to achieve a substantial measure of economic progress within the next few years, all the many hopes and ambitions kindled by their recent achievement of political independence may be lost for decades, and with this failure could go all our hopes for the creation of a peaceful world community that is both stable and enduring. This, I think, is the moral imperative that has been mainly responsible for our involvement in development assistance endeavours. If we fail to act, the surging power and optimism of the "revolution for progress" could be replaced by the appalling faces of hunger, fear, desperation and chaos.

The recent increases in Canadian aid efforts, and the anticipated expansion of our programmes

between now and 1970 to an amount equal to 1 per cent of our gross national product, are a positive affirmation of our determination to participate in the vital task of international development. Our efforts in this regard are in many ways a reflection of our heritage, for we are pursuing these objectives with the same optimism and confidence which our forefathers brought to the task of building a new nation in the North American wilderness.

It is all too common knowledge that the 1960s – the "Development Decade" – have so far been marred by many disappointments. It is a terrible fact, for example, that roughly a third of our total aid expenditures for the fiscal year 1966-67 went towards supplying food in a desperate effort simply to prevent thousands of persons from dying of starvation. This failure to stem the tide of famine, despite the considerable efforts made by both recipient and donor countries, is a measure of the unresolved problems which the world community must face.

GUIDE-LINES FOR PROGRESS

Among the factors which will determine whether the developing countries can achieve a satisfactory rate of economic progress, the following can be distinguished:

- (1) The development of new and better food production techniques.
- (2) The imaginative exploitation of resources for industrial development.
- (3) The maintenance of political stability.
- (4) The wise use of population control.