

An International Development Research Centre for Canada

"One of the most promising and exciting proposals to come before this House for some time," said the Honorable Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, regarding the bill establishing the International Development Research Centre of Canada, which had its second reading in the House of Commons on January 12 and was then referred to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence.

The Federal Government plans to allocate at least \$30 million to the proposed Centre for its first five years of operation.

Mr. Sharp's statement follows :

... The bill provides for the establishment of an International Development Research Centre of Canada. This can be a new and dynamic element in Canada's contribution to the global struggle to improve the quality of life in the less-privileged areas of the world.

It is now two decades since Canada first entered the field of co-operative international development as a founding member of the Colombo Plan. The recent meeting of the Colombo Plan Council in Victoria demonstrated how greatly our understanding of the complex problems and possibilities of international development has changed as a result of our collective experience during these two decades. We have learned that direct transfers of capital and knowledge cannot by themselves provide all the ingredients necessary for the advancement of the less-developed countries. Their problems cannot be resolved by mere transfers of some of our wealth; they must be helped to develop their own capabilities of producing the wealth they require to meet the needs and aspirations of their people. If capital and technical assistance are to be effective, they must take root in the specific setting of each of the developing societies. This calls for a clear understanding of the basic social, economic, political and cultural forces which affect the processes of growth and development in each society. It requires the development of new ways of applying existing technologies to meet the particular needs of the less-developed countries. It also requires a greater knowledge of the factors which enable such technologies to be used to achieve the social goals of the societies. It requires a concerted attempt to discover new technologies.

Effect of Industrial Revolution

The gap between the low-income and the wealthier nations of the world is to a large extent a science and technology gap. There has always been a gap between rich and poor within most societies, but the massive disparities between the nations of the less-developed areas of the world and the more industrialized