

A year later the Francophone aspect of our heritage and our bilingual character found expression in the launching of an assistance programme for Francophone African countries. This assistance was greatly amplified by a number of development projects identified in 1968 by the Chevrier Mission. Meanwhile Canada had turned its attention to Latin America by establishing a special Canadian Fund in the Inter-American Bank in 1964, and in 1970 this programme was augmented by one of direct bilateral assistance to Latin-American countries.

In 1960, the government of the day took note of the fact that aid programmes are an integral part of Canada's foreign policy and are moulded by the nature of the relationships between Canada and the recipient countries. The administration and operation of these programmes were brought under the supervision and control of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the External Aid Office was established. The same decision established a senior inter-departmental committee, now known as the Canadian International Development Board. We are now studying ways to enable the Board to play a more constructive role in co-ordinating the policies of the various departments involved in our development assistance programme.

The growing complexity of the problems of developing countries made necessary a full review of our development assistance programme, a review which led to the publication on September 2 of the Strategy for International Development Co-operation 1975-1980. Our Strategy is not so much an agonizing re-appraisal of international development policy as an expression of a number of concepts and practices which have evolved from our 25 years of experience in development co-operation. World events have made more critical this re-evaluation of the purpose and nature of our relationships with the developing countries. Already in 1970, the Foreign Policy Review suggested that the concepts of aid applied during the 1960s were not adequate for the coming decade. The Strategy for 1975-1980 is not a rigid formula for development co-operation. It is designed to be responsive to the flow of events while maintaining the continuity so essential to effective long-term economic and social development programmes. I do not wish to take Members' valuable time in a review of the 21 points of the Strategy. May I simply refer to some of the most significant aspects.