

Nations Division, it keeps in touch with CIDA and other departments about the size and role of Canadian contributions for the support of programmes such as the UNDP or agencies such as UNRWA or UNICEF.

A variety of types of interdepartmental machinery exist for the consideration of international development issues. Most important is the Canadian International Development Board, which examines basic policy questions and makes recommendations on them to ministers. Other committees meet as need be to review aid items in which departments have an interest, the food aid programme, special area programmes or staffing requirements in the field.

With the growing programme, Canadian diplomatic posts are spending an increasing amount of time on aid administration. The Division provides a centre in the Department for consideration and co-ordination of their current aid work and recommendations for the future. During the course of the year arrangements were worked out under which officials from CIDA were sent into the field as fully integrated members of Canadian embassies or high commissions to assist in the administration of the programme.

Canada has long supported the programmes of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the "World Bank") and its affiliates, the International Development Agency and the International Finance Corporation. During 1968, a substantial allocation was made for the replenishment of the depleted resources of IDA, whose activities in the field of concessional lending have always been regarded by Canada as particularly important. The World Bank has also provided a most useful forum for consultation on aid questions through its consortia and consultative groups organized for particular recipient countries. Regional development banks are becoming an increasingly significant source of financing for the developing countries; Canada is a member of the Asian Development Bank and utilizes the Inter-American Bank for capital assistance to Latin American countries.

In addition to the possibilities provided by UN institutions and World Bank groups for consultation on aid questions, the Colombo Plan, which was the first international aid association, remains a forum for co-operation. During 1968, it held the annual session of its Consultative Committee in Seoul, Korea. The Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD is another important co-ordinating body where the donor countries gather by themselves to consider common problems and means of expanding and improving the development assistance they offer. The DAC and its sub-groups meet almost weekly in Paris.

Under the definition of the international aid target set at 1 per cent of a country's gross national product, most forms of financing involving a net flow of resources are counted. In Canada, an important source of financing for the developing countries is the long-term credit facility of the Export Credits Insurance Corporation. The use of these credits, which are made available to Canadian exporters, has foreign policy as well as developmental aspects of interest to the Department of External Affairs. The Aid and Development Division provides a representative for the Export Finance Committee, which meets regularly to consider applications under this facility.