



# Statements and Speeches

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No. 75/9

## THE GENERAL POLICIES OF THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

A report to the Standing Committee of the House of Commons on External Affairs and National Defence on April 10, 1975, by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen.

You will recall that on March 11, I indicated that it was the Government's wish to put a new emphasis on Canada's relations with developing countries. I therefore welcome this opportunity to discuss with members of the Committee the general policies of the Canadian International Development Agency.

It is perhaps fitting that 1975 be the year when I, as Minister responsible for CIDA, should be making -- to my knowledge -- the first separate statement ever on the Agency, as distinct from other aspects of Canada's external relations that come under my authority as Secretary of State for External Affairs. In the field of international development, as you are no doubt aware, 1975 will be a momentous year. This is the year when the increasingly impatient demands of developing countries for a more equitable world economic system may reach a crucial stage at the seventh special session of the United Nations General Assembly next fall. This is the year when both developing and developed countries must strive in earnest to accommodate, if not reconcile, their sometimes conflicting economic interests and avoid a confrontation that would be sterile and fraught with danger. This is also the year when the poorest among the developing countries seem to be inexorably squeezed in the vise of raw-material inflation and world recession, at a time when domestic economic problems have further constrained the flow of development assistance from many Western donors.

Also, 1975 is the year when the Government of Canada, in response to these world developments, has begun a review of the full range of our economic relations with developing countries. Furthermore, I hope to announce in the not-too-distant future, after consideration and approval by Cabinet, a new set of policy guidelines that will govern CIDA's operations in the years 1975 to 1980.

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I want now, or at the end of my statement, to make available to members of the Committee a document, prepared by CIDA at my

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