



CANADA

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## YOUTH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The following excerpts are from an address by Mr. Paul Martin, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, at the opening of the International Seminar of "Rendez-vous '67" (the centennial project of the Canadian Red Cross Society), in Ottawa on August 14:

...This morning I should like to pay tribute to the Canadian Red Cross for conceiving the idea of Rendez-vous '67, and, in particular, to Red Cross Youth, which has been instrumental in bringing it to fruition. The success of this experiment, which is evident even now, might well lead to its being repeated in different form, or on a different scale, as Rendez-vous '68. Let's hope so....

The search for peace involves not only the prevention of violent conflict but also the attainment by people of all countries of adequate standards of living. I fear that, if the gap between rich and poor is not closed, or at least prevented from widening, meaningful relations between the world's people may become virtually impossible. The problem of economic development, therefore, is one of vital concern to Canadians as well as to citizens of less-developed countries.

### UNLIMITED SCOPE FOR INITIATIVE

The scope for initiative in this rapidly-changing and interdependent world is as unlimited as it is necessary. As an example, Canada has for many years had an expanding programme of external aid, which amounts this year to about \$300 million. But, in the face of the growing need, the Government has taken the decision to increase its contribution to international development to an amount approximately equal to 1 per cent of its gross national product by

the early 1970s. Alongside governments, young people and voluntary organizations such as the Red Cross also have a vital role to play. To succeed, a combination of international understanding and practical projects will be required....

As important as the practical programmes which you will discuss in the seminar will be the opportunities for exchanging ideas, for getting to know Canadians from all parts of the country and young people from round the world, and for coming to grips with the inevitable differences that divide individuals, regions and countries from each other.

As Secretary of State for External Affairs in Canada, I am particularly concerned about the last problem — how to deal with the international differences that divide. In this regard several points might be noted.

### INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

First of all, it is important to realize that, when countries differ, in many vital cases the disagreement cannot be wished away or ignored. In private life, if you have a falling-out with somebody, you can often choose not to meet that person again. You can find a new job or join another club to avoid him. In international relations, countries with differences must continue to take each other into account whether or not they like each other.

Secondly, it would be naive to believe that we have much prospect of creating a world without differences; that is a goal for the millenium. What we must do is learn to deal with inevitable differences in a mature fashion — to handle our problems short of war, and preferably in a productive and positive way.