

that development, Canada joined Britain, Australia, New Zealand and the three newly-independent Asian countries in establishing the Colombo Plan. For eight years, the Colombo Plan was Canada's only country-to-country aid program and, when other members of the Commonwealth also gained their independence, Canada extended its support to them by mounting the Commonwealth Caribbean Assistance Plan in 1958 and the Commonwealth Africa Assistance Plan in 1960.

A year later, the *francophone* aspect of our heritage and our bilingual character found expression in the launching of an assistance program 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 Development Bank in 1964, and in 1970 this program 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 programs are an integral part of Canada's foreign policy and are molded by the nature of the relations between Canada and the recipient countries. The administration and operation of these programs were brought together 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 interdepartmental 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 program.

The growing complexity of the problems of developing countries made necessary a full review of our development-assistance programs, a review that 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 reappraisal of international-development policy as an expression of a number of concepts and practices that 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 relations 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

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