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Government out of 'development business'

by Neal Watson

The role of government in the development of third-world countries contributes more to underdevelopment than development, says the executive director of the Alberta Agency for International Development (AAID).

Government's role in foreign development was debated from the international aid or international interference perspective by representatives of government, aid agencies and recipient countries at Tuesday's session of the Canada, the World and the Future conference on this week at the U of A.

AAID director Raymond Verge said government has too many other commitments to be seriously involved in development. Governments in the west must consider its national image, the attitude of the electorate, lobby groups and other factors before committing themselves.



Three speakers at the international aid session of the Canada, the World and the Future conference. From left to right: Raymond Verge, james Hullendon and Roy Neehall.

"There is a difference between rhetoric and what is reality," said Verge. "Aid is tied to conditions."

Verge also pointed to the growing role of the private sector in development. "There is a new wave coming. The role of the private sector is a very important one. There is even a place for multinational corporations in development."

James Hullendar, a state department official and a former official with the United States AID, presented the perspective of the U.S. when they enter aid agreements

with third-world countries.

Hullendar says the U.S. is a "pragmatic country" and a world power. "With that status comes a great responsibility," he said.

'We try to get government to focus on those reforms which will stimulate economic growth. We advocate a certain way of life."

"Is it interference?" he asked. "Yes it is. Is it constructive interference? We certainly hope so."

Hullendar also indicated that foreign aid was a low priority for U.S. legislators.

Dr. Roy Neehall, former general secretary of the Caribbean Council of Churches, said he wanted to "lift the halo a little bit from foreign aid."

"There is no such thing as untied foreign aid for developing countries and some are direct or indirect meddling in the affairs of sovereign nations.

Neehall warned that the discontent that this interference causes can soon become dissidence.

Neehall said there must be an acceptable degree of balance between the conditions of foreign aid and a respect for the country's independence so that countries aren't mortgaged by their governments to international agenices like the International Monetary Fund.

Neehall agreed with Pope John Paul's statement that foreign aid is "international justice, not generosity.'

Cuts called for med school enrolln nent

OTTAWA(CUP)— First-year enrolment in medical schools across Canada should be cut by 20 per cent next fall, a new federal-provincial report says.

The report, obtained by the Globe and Mail last week, says the supply of doctors in Canada doubled between 1961 and 1980, while the population increased by only 33 per cent.

More than 300 doctors who are not needed enter the medical system each year, and if nothing is done, there will be a surplus of 6,000 doctors by the year 2,000, according to the two year study.

The report also recommends reducing post-graduate training in general practice and medical specialties, lowering the number of foreign medical school graduates accepted and the number of doctors practicing in Canada with work visas, and ensuring doctors practice only where they are needed.

Dr. Jean Dupong, the director of health manpower at Health and Welfare Canada, who worked on

the study, said it had "been presented to the provinces in November and they have to decide what to do with it.

The provinces will decide whether to make the report public, he said.

In a recent interview, John Bennet, director of professional affairs at the Canadian Medical Association, disputed the numbers the governments used in the report.

"Lots of physicians are on doctoral lists as doctors but are in administration or research," Bennett said. "A surgeon could be listed as a surgeon but only doing surgery 10 per cent of the time.'

Bennett said the CMA has established a committee on medical manpower which is putting together a new, accurate employment data bank of doctors in Canada.

Until we've got a common data ground anybody making projections is making them on inadequate data," he said. "It would help

us considerably if the government report would be made available to US.

Meanwhile, even as the report was leaked, 1,800 young doctors walked out of 41 teaching hospitals across Quebec, tired of working 70 hours a week for some of the lowest wages in the country.

The Quebec government cut 400 places for specialists since 1976, creating a shortage of residents, who are specialists-in-training, in Quebec hospitals.

New student paper at L В

FREDERICTON (CUP) - After two years of feuding with the University of New Brunswick's student newspaper The Brunswickan, former student union president John Bosnitch is determined to start his own.

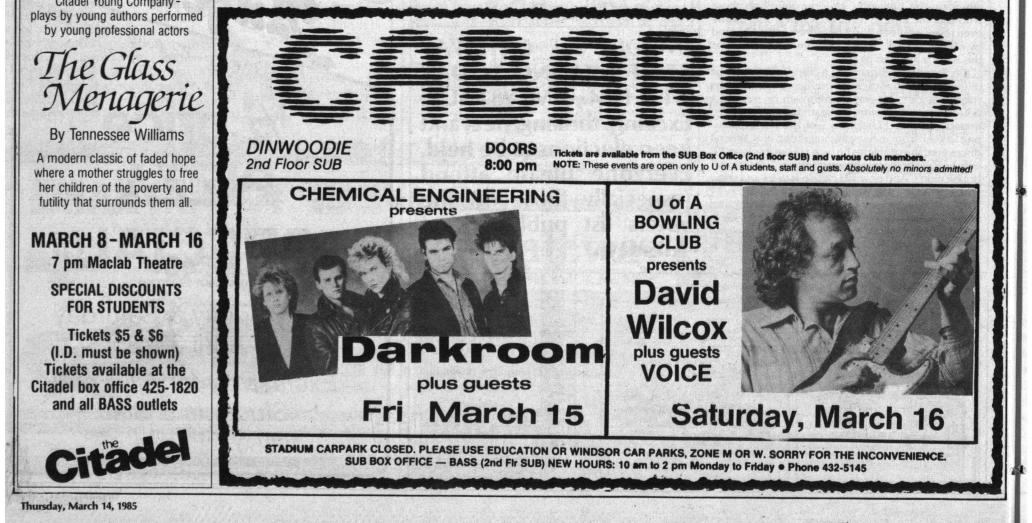
The Standard, with a projected circulation of 5,000 to 10,000, will focus on students' issues, particularly on student rights versus university administraton, Bosnitch said.

"(The new paper) will allow for the expression of many fo the opinions regularly censored from The Brunswickan," he said.

The Brunswickan has done a "dismal" job of fighting for students, because it "doesn't have the guts to stand up tothe administration," Bosnitch said. The Brunswickan, a 10,000 circulation weekly, is 119 years old.

Accused of censorship, Brunswickan managing editor Mike Mac-Kinnon said "If we wanted to censor them, we could have point blank refused to deal with them. We're just treating them like evervone else.

MacKinnon said The Brunswickan had fought for students over the past year,



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