



Statements and Speeches

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STRATEGY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT -- 1975-80

A Statement to the Diplomatic Corps by the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Secretary of State for External Affairs and Minister Responsible for International Development, Ottawa, September 2, 1975.

...Allow me, first, to thank you for attending this unveiling of Canada's new strategy for international co-operation. As you know, it is somewhat unusual in Ottawa for the Government to invite the heads of diplomatic missions or their representatives to the Pearson Building to receive officially a policy document and to be briefed on it. We are far from secretive about our activities, especially in the field of international affairs; but we generally rely on more informal contacts to convey to you and to your authorities the substance of Canada's foreign policy as it unfolds, under the pressure of changing needs and expectations in this country and abroad. Similarly, we are usually able to deal with the very large number of bilateral issues that arise between Canada and each of your countries without resorting to the formal instruments of diplomacy.

During my first year in this portfolio, I have had the pleasure to meet, privately or socially, most of you; but only on rare occasions have I felt the need to call in an ambassador and, reciprocally, have your governments deemed it necessary to convey directly their views to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The channels of communication are open, information is readily exchanged at all levels, differences are smoothed out, by and large, before they become contentious. These are the facts of diplomatic life in Ottawa; and these facts are a tribute to the effectiveness of your missions and of the various bureaus in the Department of External Affairs.

Therefore, if we have invited you here this afternoon, it is not only so that you may take cognizance, and apprise your governments as swiftly and thoroughly as possible, of the new strategy that CIDA and other government agencies will strive to implement in the next five years; it is rather to emphasize the importance, indeed the very high priority, that the Government of Canada attaches to its international development policy. It is for the same reason that we have chosen to make this policy document public on the opening day of the seventh special session of the United Nations General Assembly, convened precisely to deal with the nexus of development
