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NEW DIMENSIONS IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

An Address by Mr. Lewis Perinbam, United Nations Liaison Officer, The World Bank, in Ottawa on February 16, 1966, at a Dinner given by Members of Parliament, Senior Civil Servants and the National Press for the Overseas Students and Trainees studying in Ottawa under the auspices of the Canadian External Aid Programme.

There are several reasons why I am grateful for this honor of addressing this distinguished gathering. In the first place, it enables me to pay a well deserved tribute to Canada's External Aid Programme, under whose auspices the scholars in this audience have come to Canada for study and training. The Canadian programme is among the most successful undertaken by any country, and is widely noted for its quality and competent management. It is a programme which, as the Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, stated to the House of Commons Standing Committee on External Affairs last June, "is guided primarily by humanitarian considerations". Consequently, it has no political axes to grind, although political goodwill may be its by-product. It does not seek unfair economic advantages, although it may result in the export of Canadian goods and services and increased trade with developing countries. It does not impose terms and conditions which may be resented by the developing countries, although it insists on high standards in its programme. In short, it is concerned with development - its primary aim is to help the developing countries to help themselves to become self-reliant and to speed their economic growth.

Secondly, this occasion allows me to acknowledge the important part that Canada has played, and continues to play, in the World Bank group of institutions. Of the Bank's 103 members, Canada is the sixth largest shareholder. Canadian manufacturers and consultants have played a notable part in designing and equipping many development projects financed out of Bank loans. If you were to take the 1,000-mile ride on the Pacific Railway to Guadelajara in Mexico, you would be riding on Canadian rail; in Rio de Janeiro you would use electric current from Canadian-equipped power-plants and transmission systems; and, as a traveller on India's national railways, you might well find yourself riding behind a locomotive of Canadian manufacture that the Bank has helped to finance. Canadians helped to write the charter of the Bank at Bretton Woods in 1944, and they have been represented on its Board of Directors since the Bank came into existence.

And, thirdly, if I may add a personal note, it is always a great pleasure for me, as a Canadian, to return to Ottawa and to be among former colleagues and friends with whom it was my privilege to live and work for many years.