

# Canada Weekly

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## Canada helps map the Third World

Any historical account of Canadian participation in overseas aid involves the science of photogrammetry: obtaining reliable, precise measurements of terrain by photography. Today, this means aerial photography which, by a system of technical procedures, is transformed into maps and charts.

Developing nations need to know the true extent of their natural resources of water, timber and minerals. They also need indications of the type of land-use policies suitable for their national economies. In the 1950s, Canadian external aid was mainly directed to Ceylon, India, Pakistan and Malaysia. Resource mapping was an indispensable part of these projects.

As an industrialized country good at solving its own surveying and mapping problems with photo aircraft, Canada was in a good position to give advice. Moreover, like many Third World nations, Canada is a vast land, with some regions that are hard to reach.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) early approached experts at

Energy, Mines and Resources' (EMR) Surveys and Mapping Branch about control surveys, mapping and charting on land, water and in the air. A quarter of a century later, the branch can look back to service in 20 nations, five in Asia, nine in Africa and six in the Commonwealth Caribbean.

### Special consultants

Under branch directors Dr. S.G. Gamble and R.E. Moore, staff members often acted as special consultants for private firms operating in aid-recipient countries. These men formed an impartial referee agency, monitoring and inspecting the work and maintaining a standard which would reflect favourably on Canadian industry and international reputation.

They also performed a variety of functions for Canadian contractors. For example, they compiled specifications in advance of the type of "surround information" required: style of printed legend, scales and symbols, and spelling of place names. These could be



Doppler satellite surveys in northeastern Nigeria. Energy, Mines and Resources' Surveys and Mapping Branch provides such services in 20 countries throughout the world.

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