

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In Ottawa, not just in External Affairs or the Canadian International Development Agency, there is constant exposure to the world beyond our borders and beyond our continent. There are in Ottawa 73 Embassies and High Commissions and a steady traffic in and out of foreign visitors and of Canadians returning from abroad. For these reasons, and for no special Ottawa virtue, there is, in the capital, a fairly high level of interest in the world around us.

You do not have this same built-in exposure and it is that much more to your credit that you have shown initiative and a lively interest in the developing world.

For this reason I can tell you that my motive in accepting your invitation is not just a taste for New Brunswick lobster. You have demonstrated energy and enterprise in organizing with the Ys of Halifax and Saint John to set up a Maritime Partnership Project. As I understand it, this began with a programme of cooperation with the Dominican Republic to help in the development of a YMCA in Santo Domingo. From this beginning you gave your support to the establishment of a sandal factory and shoe shop in Santo Domingo.

You will be pleased to learn that the CIDA grant of \$25,000 which you had requested for this project has been approved.

As a young man I was proud of the very rewarding association which I had with the Y in Winnipeg. As a Y enthusiast still, I am very proud to have this opportunity tonight to commend most warmly the members of the Moncton Y.

The problem of wide-spread and crushing poverty in large parts of the world remains not only a challenge to our sense of values but to the prospects of future stability in the world. Although I understand that the YMCA initiated its first overseas programme in 1889, most of us in the developed world, including governments, were far behind in our perceptions of this challenge. It was not really until the post-war years that there was an assumption by society of responsibility for the elimination of conditions of poverty in the world at large. This sense of responsibility was stimulated at that time by a number of converging factors: increasing awareness of widening disparities between rich and poor nations and a realization that the development of technology and the accumulation of wealth have made the eradication of poverty an attainable goal. This outlook stemmed from the same post-war philosophy which have us the framework for our present social welfare structure at home - and a commitment on the part of the Federal and Provincial Governments to reduce regional disparities.

We set out toward this goal with zeal and optimism - but in the beginning with only rudimentary appreciation of the complexities of the task. In time we came to acknowledge the limitations of development assistance. Aid can only provide a relatively small proportion of the total resources required by developing countries. Societies and governments in these countries must assume