

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, has announced today the decision of the Canadian Government to contribute Canadian \$20,000 to the Special Fund of the United Nations Volunteers Program. The Canadian Government wishes to provide support to a U.N. organization whose aims are similar to those of voluntary groups in many countries. At the same time the Canadian Government intends to manifest on the international scene its interest towards the activities of Canadian organizations already involved in the field of cooperation with developing countries.

The United Nations Volunteers Program was established by the United Nations General Assembly through Resolution 2659 (XXV) and began operations on January 1, 1971. The purpose of the program is to provide to developing countries university graduates and individuals with vocational training to undertake assignment in these countries for a relatively modest level of remuneration.

Within the administrative structure of the United Nations the volunteer program is part of the United Nations Development Program which pays for the UNVP administrative costs. The local costs (housing, salary, duty travel for each volunteer) will generally be met by the recipient country. External costs such as pre-screening, training needs and transportation costs will be met by the Special Funds for volunteers from developing countries. For volunteers from developing countries these costs will be met by national volunteers organizations.