

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, announced today that Canada has put forward Dr. W. David Hopper, President of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), as a candidate for the position of Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This position becomes vacant at the end of 1975 with the retirement of the incumbent.

The aim of the Members of FAO, an organization which Canada helped to establish in 1945 at Quebec City, is to advance the common welfare by promoting separate and collective action to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, to secure improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products, to better the conditions of rural populations and thus to contribute toward an expanding world economy.

Canada believes that agriculture and rural development are among the most urgent problems facing the world today. As a major agricultural producer and active participant in the World Food Programme, Canada is making substantial efforts in the world-wide campaign against hunger. FAO is a pivotal organization that will service the new World Food Council, established following the 1974 World Food Conference, and the proposed Consultative Group for Agricultural Production and Investment. Canada is anxious that the FAO, in conformity with the guidance and directives which it may receive from the World Food Council, play fully its essential part in this important effort.

Accordingly, and in the belief that the FAO should be headed by a professional of high technical competence with experience in third world agricultural development problems, Dr. Hopper's name has been put forward by the Canadian Government. His outstanding technical and managerial talents make him uniquely suited to assure the increased and constructive contribution which the world expects from the FAO.

Dr. Hooper's Curriculum Vitae is attached. Dr. Hopper has had extensive experience in the research and practice of agriculture and food development in developing countries. He has also been a leader in relating population problems to social and economic development, especially rural development. His work in world agricultural development has influenced activities at national, regional and international levels, and he has had a close association with FAO and the major world investment and agricultural research agencies. He was directly involved in the establishment of the network of international agricultural research centres and was closely associated with the so-called green revolution that has greatly expanded rice and wheat production in Asia.