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APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT OF IDRC

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, announced today the appointment of Ivan L. Head as President of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to succeed W. David Hopper who resigned from the position in December after having served as President for seven years. Mr. Head, who is currently Special Adviser to the Prime Minister, was appointed by the government on the recommendation of the Board of Governors. He will take up his new duties in March.

The International Development Research Centre was created by an Act of Parliament in 1970. Its objects include the initiation, encouragement, support and conduct of research into the problems of the developing regions of the world and as well research into the application and adaptation of scientific and technical knowledge to the economic and social advancement of those regions. To this end the Canadian Government appropriates an annual budget in excess of \$35 million.

The Centre represents a unique demonstration of Canada's desire to co-operate with the developing regions in programmes especially attuned to their most important needs. In accordance with the IDRC Statute the members of the Board of Governors are drawn from ten foreign countries in addition to Canada. The President is appointed only on the recommendation of that Board. In the present instance, the Board examined the qualifications of some 40 persons in its search for candidates. Several were interviewed at length by a Special Committee of the Board.

In making the announcement, Mr. Jamieson paid tribute to the significant contribution made to the IDRC by Mr. Hopper. In his term as President, he served under three Chairmen -- the Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson, Mr. Louis Rasminsky and Mr. Maurice Strong. In that period the Centre has established itself as the foremost institution of its kind in the world. The Minister expressed confidence that Mr. Head would build upon the work of Mr. Hopper for he brings to the position rich experience in both academic and governmental work, with particular emphasis on the developing regions of the world.