

CIDA  
25 May 1977

Commonwealth  
Heads of Government Meeting  
London, 8-16 June 1977

Media Background:

The Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation

The Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC) is a development fund established in 1971 and administered by the Commonwealth Secretariat, with resources contributed by all Commonwealth governments. It assists Commonwealth developing countries by providing technical assistance - advice, experts and training - to support their development efforts.

Rich and poor together, Commonwealth countries co-operate to provide the fund with money, with staff and with facilities. This makes it different from the traditional type of aid agency financed solely by richer countries. It complements the activities of other development agencies, both national and international, and can often meet needs which are not easily accommodated by other agencies. Because of its structure, the CFTC does not merely assist development, but also reinforces Commonwealth links. The widespread use of the English language, and the similarity of administrative origins and professional practice, help the fund to operate simply and flexibly, matching its services to its members' needs.

The CFTC's resources - and activities - have grown rapidly. In its first year of operations, it spent \$500,000. Its plan of expenditure for 1976/77, its sixth year, totals \$14 million. All contributions are voluntary, and assistance to any country is not governed by the size of its contribution.

Canada, Britain, Nigeria, Australia and New Zealand are the largest contributors. Canada is the leading contributor to the CFTC, and our contributions have averaged about 37% of total contributions. Our 1976/77 contribution is \$4,350,000, followed by Britain at \$3,250,000. Developing countries contribute about 20% of total resources, with Nigeria accounting for half. It is expected that the Canadian contribution to the CFTC for 1977/78 will be announced during the Heads of Government Meeting.

Developing member countries support the fund in three ways. Besides making financial contributions, they enable the fund to make use of training facilities within their countries, and to recruit experts whose experience can be particularly advantageous to other developing countries.

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