

International Development Research Centre

In the spring of 1970, Parliament gave final approval and the Government pledged funds for the next five years to what is perhaps the most promising recent idea for overseas development - the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). First proposed by Mr. L. B. Pearson, the Centre will focus advanced scientific and technological knowledge on the difficulties of the underdeveloped countries by sponsoring or conducting realistic, multi-disciplinary, problem-oriented research designed to bridge the growing science and technology gap.

Although it is a Canadian organization, the Centre will be international in staff and character. It will finance research, wherever the most capable people and institutions are available, on such problems as mineral resources evaluation, food conservation and distribution, improvement of agricultural products and techniques, and the development of labour-intensive industry. The Board of Governors is broadly representative of the developing and developed countries alike, although the chairman, vice-chairman and a voting majority of the 21-member Board and seven-man Executive Committee are Canadian. The first meeting of the Board was held in October 1970.

The IDRC, a long-term experiment offering great potential benefits, will help meet a serious inadequacy in existing aid programs. The Government has stated that it will receive a minimum of \$30 million over its first five years.

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