

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 64/1

DEVELOPMENT AID AND WORLD CITIZENSHIP

Advance text of a Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, to the Adversising and-Sales Club, Hamilton, Ontario, on January 6, 1964.

It is a pleasure for me to be here with you on "Civic Night". This event, which joins together many of the service clubs and other goodwill organizations in this city, is a fine example of citizenship in action. The recognition which you accord to the Citizen of the Year here in Hamilton gives emphasis to the importance of good citizenship on the part of all Canadians.

I think that we can be proud of the fine tradition of citizenship in our country. But we cannot be complacent. Today our values and our way of life are being challenged as never before; challenged just as much by apathy and indifference and lack of concern within our country as they are from the great forces at work in the world at large.

The important and vital necessity of a well-informed body of citizens, conscious of their responsibilities and obligations, has never been greater. This is particularly true in Canada today. We are a young country. We possess many of the prerequisites for greatness. Never has the importance of national unity been greater. Let us have a full and open dialogue between all Canadians as to the nature and strength of our country. Let the dialogue be conducted with tolerance and moderation and good sense. If we do this, and I believe we are in the process of doing it, I have no doubt that an even stronger and more united and more vigorous Canada will be the result.

This evening I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to speak about some of my ideas and concerns about how we can exercise our citizenship on the international scale. We live in a rapidly shrinking world today and just as, in the past, we felt concern and obligations towards people in our own communities, today this concern must be reflected on a world scale, because today, truly, the whole world is our neighbourhood.

A Good Beginning

I think that we in Canada have made a good beginning in this regard. For more than a decade now Canada has participated in overseas development programmes with the Colombo Plan, of which we are one of the founding members. By next year Canada will have contributed nearly half a billion dollars to overseas-development projects under the Colombo Plan.

We have also made substantial contributions to various United Nations development schemes. Last fall, we doubled our grant from \$2.5 million to \$5 million to the United Nations Special Fund.

Last November we substantially increased the amount of foreign assistance which we will be giving this year. We would be failing in our duty if we did not continue this endeavour.

Apart from the direct governmental participation in overseas development, a great many private and voluntary organizations in Canada are already playing important roles in international service. Organizations like the YMCA, the Salvation Army, the Red Cross, the Save the Children Fund, African Students Foundation, the Canadian Universities Service Overseas, the Overseas Institute, the Canadian Catholic Conference, and a host of other organizations both private and public, both large and small, are all deeply involved in international service. A great many church groups and missionaries have also made substantial contributions in Latin America and throughout Africa and other parts of the world.

But a great deal remains ahead of us. This is an immense and staggering task. The vastness of the problem is almost terrifying.

Support by Canadians Essential

As we proceed forward, nothing is of more importance for Canada's role in international development than the creation within Canada of public support for international development.

I believe that one of the major requirements in our society today is to have an even greater sense of involvement on the part of all Canadians in this great adventure of international development which is taking place in our time.

Let me emphasize two important points to you. First, this subject is not something to which only governments contribute, although the Government is making a substantial effort. This is a concern of all Canadians, and there is a part to play for Canadians in many walks of life.

I envisage an active partnership between government and voluntary organizations and private individuals, all fulfilling important and complementary roles.

Secondly, overseas assistance and international development is not a dry, governmental, bureaucratic operation. On the contrary, it is an intensely human, individualistic process, which should be familiar to all of us. There is a great need to tell the story of the adventure of international development. We must humanize and publicize this intensely human subject.

Here is perhaps one of the greatest challenges that our communication media have ever faced. There is so much that can be done. I am constantly surprised that more imaginative efforts are not made to publicize the story of international development.

Canadian Education Assistance

Let me give you several examples of Canadian assistance in the field of international education:

- 1) Last year there were 10,043 students from the developing countries studying in Canada.
- 2) In the same year there were 235 Canadian advisers and teachers serving abroad.
- 3) Later this month a new residence hall will be opened at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad. This residence, to be known as Canada Hall, will accommodate about 380 students. The commemorative plaque will bear testimony of Canada's participation to the West Indian development with these words - "A gift of the people of Canada to the University of the West Indies".

Many other illustrations could be given, from an aerial mapping survey in Nigeria, to an airport in Ceylon, to hydro-electric power plants in India and Pakistan, a large fisheries scheme in Malaya.

United Nations Role

Much of the important activity of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies is hidden behind headlines announcing United Nations difficulties in some political endeavour which, in the long run, may be far less significant for the cause of world peace than the many-pronged attacks on the root causes of tension and conflict - poverty, ignorance, illiteracy and disease - which the United Nations is actively engaged in.

I would hope that we could do much more to inform people about the tremendous work which has been done by the United Nations in constructive social and economic development. All too often one reads criticisms of the United Nations in its political role. Very few people realize that 90 per cent of the United Nations staff is exclusively engaged in promoting social and economic welfare in the developing countries.

Since 1949, \$5.75 billion has flowed from United Nations agencies to help meet the urgent capital requirements of the developing countries:

18,000 international experts have been sent out to those countries under United Nations auspices.

48,000 people from the developing countries have been granted United Nations fellowships to study abroad.

A great many of these men and women are now leaders in government, commerce and education in their own countries.

Work of UNICEF

Let me give you an illustration of an organization which combines government, United Nations and private individual all working together in harmony, an organization which has done much both for human betterment in the world and in publicizing the story of development. I refer to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). The purpose of UNICEF is to make a permanent contribution to the welfare of large numbers of children through programmes which countries will be able to carry on by themselves after initial UNICEF stimulus:

UNICEF has worked with the World Health Organization in a programme to eradicate malaria, which has been very successful and which has done much to reduce the tragedy of this disease.

Since the beginning, Canada has been one of the main contributing countries to UNICEF. At the present time, the Canadian Government contributes \$800,000 annually.

The Canadian National Committee for UNICEF raised half a million dollars in 1962, with such fund-raising projects as the "Hallowe'en Trick or Treat for UNICEF" and the sale of UNICEF Christmas cards.

Next year, the Canadian Committee for UNICEF hopes to raise over \$600,000.

This is a magnificent and imaginative event, which helping to bring internationalism to Canada while contributing important development and welfare projects in the world.

A Private Example

Let me mention another private organization which is making an important contribution. The Credit Union League of Saskatchewan this year has marked its twenty-fifth anniversary undertaking a substantial project of assistance to Tanganyika. The project takes the form mainly of an educational programme to

teach the techniques of credit-union development to the people of that country. I should like to commend the Credit Union League of Saskatchewan for its initiative in undertaking this worthwhile endeavour.

I would hope that, as Canada approaches her hundredth birthday, and as communities and organizations are searching for projects to commemorate this event, they will look overseas, and perhaps some of them may select projects of assistance to one or other of the developing countries.

These are just a few examples, but they serve to emphasize my theme that there is a real challenge to us in Canada to create a dynamic partnership between all agencies interested in international development and the Government and also to publicize the important human work that has already been accomplished.

International Co-operation Year

We are soon going to have an opportunity to give wide publicity to the story of international development and also to create a greater public understanding of what has been done and what remains to be done. 1965 is going to be designated as International Co-operation Year. Coming as it does about the halfway mark of the Decade of Development, International Co-operation Year should serve as a stimulus for international programmes of economic and social assistance.

The International Co-operation Year should enable individuals and groups in Canada and elsewhere who are engaged in international work to gain increased recognition and public support for their work.

To this end, a Canadian Committee has been established which will be co-ordinating the promotion of International Co-operation Year.

Among the excellent suggestions is one that the different months of 1965 should be given over to publicizing co-operation in specific fields such as public health, welfare, food, education. This will allow the communications media throughout the country to have articles and programmes featuring the activities of groups and individuals in local communities working in the field of international co-operation.

Canada has been closely associated with the preparation for International Co-operation Year since its inception, and the Government is firmly behind the idea. We intend to give it full and vigorous support.

I have taken this opportunity this evening to emphasize the importance we attach to this International Co-operation Year.

International development is the great imperative of our generation. It is an immense task which lies ahead of us. It is vital that we set our objectives high and pursue them vigorously. If we do, I have no doubt that we possess the resources and the skill to do much to eradicate hunger, poverty and disease throughout the world before the end of the present century.

But the Government cannot do this work on its own. It will require voluntary organizations and private individuals and business corporations and universities, all working in partnership, all marching towards the goal of raising the living standards of the developing countries. Fundamental to the attaining of these goals will be the creation in Canada of a wide measure of public support and understanding. We must become citizens of the world, exhibiting the concern for people and communities far from our shores that you have exhibited in this city and which you are commending this evening.

This is our challenge. Toward this end we must put forth our maximum efforts. There is no doubt in my mind that our generation will be judged in history on the success or failure of our efforts in this greatest human adventure of all time.

S/C