



communiqué

N°:
No.: 131

June 18, 1987.

CANADA UNDERTAKES NEW DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION INITIATIVES IN THE PACIFIC

SINGAPORE - The Secretary of State for External Affairs, The Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today a \$10 million development assistance program for the developing nations of the South Pacific.

"The new program, which we estimate will cost about \$2 million a year, will be implemented by the International Centre for Ocean Development (ICOD) in close cooperation with the major South Pacific regional organizations. This initiative together with the \$2.6 million annual allocation for the small scale development program, will result in a tripling of Canada's bilateral assistance to the South Pacific nations. Combined with other programs, this will increase Canadian assistance to the region to about \$7 million a year by 1988".

Canadian assistance to the South Pacific has been limited to small development projects and assistance provided through Canadian institutions such as the Canadian University Service Overseas (CUSO), International Centre for Ocean Development (ICOD), International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Canadian Executive Service Overseas (CESO).

"We will expand funding for fisheries and oceans related advisory services and technical assistance and short and long-term training to be undertaken both in Canada and in the South Pacific," Mr. Clark said.

Addressing the Annual Post Ministerial Conference of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Dialogue country Foreign Ministers here, Mr. Clark, said that Canada has a growing interest in the South Pacific, consistent with our broader interests in the Asia Pacific Region.

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"We recognize the important role regional cooperation has played in promoting stability and economic growth in the South Pacific", Mr. Clark said. "Accordingly, Canada will expand cooperation with the countries of the South Pacific in fisheries development and ocean resources management. Beneficiaries will be regional organizations such as the Forum Fisheries Agency, the University of the South Pacific, the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Cooperation and the Committee for Coordination of Offshore Prospecting in the South Pacific," he explained.

"The essential objective of this initiative is to strengthen the independent capabilities of all nations in the South Pacific to develop, manage and exploit their ocean resources in a manner which will maximize economic benefits now and in the future", the Minister concluded.