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BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, today announced the appointment of seven Governors -- four Canadian and three non-Canadian -- to the 21-member Board of Governors of the International Development Research Centre.

The seven Governors are Roger Blais, of Montreal; Peter Green, of Halifax; Ilunga Kabongo, of Zaire; Robert Milne, of Vancouver; Rex Nettleford, of Jamaica; Sir Geoffrey Wilson, of Britain; and William Charles Winegard, of Guelph.

Mr. Nettleford has been a Governor since the Centre was established in 1970, and is being reappointed for a further term. The other six are newcomers to the IDRC Board, whose Chairman is Mr. Louis Rasminsky, former Governor of the Bank of Canada.

The Centre was created by Act of the Canadian Parliament to support research designed to adapt science and technology to the specific needs of the developing countries as determined by them. The Act established the Centre as a public corporation, and provided that its Board of Governors would be appointed by the Canadian Government. It also provided that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and nine other Governors must be Canadian citizens.

On the Centre's first Board (1970-72) the other 10 Governors were drawn from other countries, including six from developing countries. This practice has been continued through the new appointments.

Governors are appointed for a four-year term, but on the first Board six Governors were appointed for only two years, and another six Governors for three years, to ensure a measure of continuity. New appointments were made in June 1973 to replace the first group to retire under this rotation system.

The Governors of this autonomous corporation meet twice yearly to set the priorities of the Centre and to approve projects, and the next meeting is due to take place in Dakar, Senegal, on March 24 to 26. During the first 3½ years of operation the IDRC Board approved support for more than 150 projects involving grants totalling \$28.6 million.

Some biographical details on the seven governors follow:

Roger Blais, 48, is Director of Research Services at the Polytechnic School of Montreal. He was for five years Chief Development Engineer of the Iron Ore Company of Canada in the Schefferville district and personally discovered the Lance Ridge ore body there. From 1968-70 he was chairman of the study group on earth sciences of the Science Council of Canada.

Peter Green, 33, is a partner in the law firm of Kitz, Matheson, Green, and MacIsaac. He has a law degree from Dalhousie University, and also took a Master's program in Economics, majoring in labour economics and monetary and fiscal policy, at Queen's University. He has been President of the Halifax YMCA and was also chairman of a World-Y-Development committee.

Ilunga Kabongo, 33, is a professor at the National University of Zaire and Vice-Dean of its Faculty of Political and Social Sciences. He took a law degree at Lovanium University in 1964, and a Master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California at Berkeley. He has also been a visiting assistant lecturer at the University of Dar-es-Salaam.

Robert Milne, 55, has been head of the Department of Political Science at the University of British Columbia since 1965. Born in Britain, Professor Milne has taught political science and social studies at universities in Britain, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Netherlands and Singapore. During 1974-75, he will be working at the University of Singapore.

Rex Nettleford, 41, is director of the Department of Extra-Mural Studies of the University of the West Indies. He is also cultural advisor of the Prime Minister of Jamaica, and founder of the Jamaica National Dance Theatre. He is a founder-member of the IDRC Board.

Sir Geoffrey Wilson, 63, is at present chairman of Britain's Race Relations Board. A barrister by profession, he has had a distinguished career in several government departments -- the Foreign Office, Cabinet Office and Treasury -- before becoming Deputy Secretary-General (Economic) at the Commonwealth Secretariat in 1970. He has also been a Vice-President of the World Bank.

William Charles Winegard, 49, has been President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Guelph since 1967. He holds a doctorate in physical metallurgy, and for 16 years was on the staff of the University of Toronto. In 1965 he was a Lecturer at the Australian Institute of Metals.

The continuing members of the IDRC Board of Governors are:

Louis Berlinguet, of Quebec City (Vice-Chairman); W. David Hopper, (President and Chief Executive Officer); Pierre Bauchet, of France; C. Fred Bentley, of Edmonton; Roberto Campos, of Brazil; Sir John Crawford, of Australia; Norman Currie, of Toronto; A.L. Dias, of India; Paul Gérin-Lajoie, of Ottawa (President of the Canadian International Development Agency); Aklilu Habte, of Ethiopia; Archie Micay, of Winnipeg; Theodore Schultz, of the United States; and Dr. Soedjatmoko, of Indonesia.