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GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO CANADIAN UNIVERSITY SERVICE  
OVERSEAS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, today made the following statement.

The concept of voluntary overseas service in developing countries by young men and women is one of the most imaginative and significant developments of contemporary history.

For the past three years the Canadian University Service Overseas (CUSO), a national bilingual non-sectarian organization, has been placing young men and women in positions in the developing countries. Presently there are just over 200 young Canadians overseas in this programme.

Last year for the first time the government assisted CUSO by the provision of transportation through the facilities of the RCAF.

I am pleased to announce that this year the government intends to provide assistance in the order of half a million dollars from External Aid funds so that CUSO may greatly expand its work. It is my hope that this government support, which will include amongst other types of assistance all the

transportation requirements of CUSO, will enable this organization to double its existing programme and to be able to have 400 volunteers at work in the developing countries by this September.

I believe that an active working partnership between CUSO and the government can be achieved and maintained, a partnership which will preserve the independence and the vitality and the voluntary character of CUSO, while at the same time lending the stability and resources of the government.

I should like to acknowledge and commend the outstanding leadership that CUSO has received from a great many Canadians. I should particularly like to commend the Chairman of CUSO, Dr. J. Francis Leddy, President of the University of Windsor, for the outstanding leadership that he has given this organization. I hope that Canadians will continue to give substantial financial support to CUSO.

I can think of no finer way in which a young Canadian man and woman can serve his fellow man and the cause of international peace and brotherhood ~~more~~ than by participating in this type of programme.

I know that young Canadians will come forward to offer their services and vigorously support this voluntary programme. Our objective is to make it possible for any qualified person for whom a worthwhile position can be found in the developing countries to serve abroad for a period of two or three years. The qualifications for service do not necessarily include

a university degree. Nurses, technicians, accountants, stenographers and a great many other skilled persons are required, although there is a particularly heavy demand for teachers with university training.

I would hope that within one or two years we can have as many as 1,000 young Canadians serving abroad in developing countries.

One of the first tasks of the Company of Young Canadians will be to study and assess the many requirements which will be involved in preparing for this great expansion in the numbers of young Canadians serving abroad in programmes of international development such as CUSO.

The Company of Young Canadians will work in the closest possible co-ordination and co-operation with CUSO and I would hope that within a short time there can be some announcement made about further developments in this exciting area which I am confident will capture the imagination of all Canadians.