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No. 21

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 4, 1975

DR. W. DAVID HOPPER -- CANADA'S CANDIDATE  
FOR THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF  
THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, announced today that Canada has put forward Dr. W. David Hopper, President of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), as a candidate for the position of Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This position becomes vacant at the end of 1975 with the retirement of the incumbent.

The aim of the Members of FAO, an organization which Canada helped to establish in 1945 at Quebec City, is to advance the common welfare by promoting separate and collective action to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, to secure improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products, to better the conditions of rural populations and thus to contribute toward an expanding world economy.

Canada believes that agriculture and rural development are among the most urgent problems facing the world today. As a major agricultural producer and active participant in the World Food Programme, Canada is making substantial efforts in the world-wide campaign against hunger. FAO is a pivotal organization that will service the new World Food Council, established following the 1974 World Food Conference, and the proposed Consultative Group for Agricultural Production and Investment. Canada is anxious that the FAO, in conformity with the guidance and directives which it may receive from the World Food Council, play fully its essential part in this important effort.

Accordingly, and in the belief that the FAO should be headed by a professional of high technical competence with experience in third world agricultural development problems, Dr. Hopper's name has been put forward by the Canadian Government. His outstanding technical and managerial talents make him uniquely suited to assure the increased and constructive contribution which the world expects from the FAO.

Dr. Hooper's Curriculum Vitae is attached. Dr. Hopper has had extensive experience in the research and practice of agriculture and food development in developing countries. He has also been a leader in relating population problems to social and economic development, especially rural development. His work in world agricultural development has influenced activities at national, regional and international levels, and he has had a close association with FAO and the major world investment and agricultural research agencies. He was directly involved in the establishment of the network of international agricultural research centres and was closely associated with the so-called green revolution that has greatly expanded rice and wheat production in Asia.

W. DAVID HOPFER

BORN: 22 February 1927, Ottawa, Canada

NATIONALITY: Canadian

EDUCATION: B.Sc. (AGR) McGill University,  
Montreal, 1950

Ph.D. Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, 1957  
(Economics of Agriculture, Cultural Anthropology)

FORMAL POSITIONS:

1953-1955 Social Science Research Council fellowship to study the economic organization of a village on the Gangetic plain of North Central India.

1957-59 Associate professor of agricultural economics, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ontario

1959-62 Assistant professor of economics and of anthropology, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

1962-65 Agricultural Economist and Director of Evaluation, intensive agricultural districts program, Ford Foundation, New Delhi, India

1965-70 Agricultural Economist and Associate Field Director, Indian Agricultural Program, Rockefeller Foundation, New Delhi; and visiting professor of agricultural economics, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, India.

1970- to date President, International Development Research Centre, Ottawa

CONSULTANCIES, VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS, ETC.

1958 Visiting professor of agricultural development, Ohio State University, Colombos, Ohio, U.S.A.

1960 Visiting professor of agricultural development, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minn., U.S.A.

1964-66 Periodic consultant to FAO and the World Bank on Indian Agricultural Development

1966 Consultant to FAO on the 'Indicative World Plan' for world food production and demand 1965-to 1985.

1967-68 Consultant to the ASCAN Development Bank and Deputy Team Leader of the ADB Asian Agricultural Development survey mission. (Editor, summary author and executive officer of the survey team. Visited all Asian country members of the ADB to review the state and course of

national agricultural and food production development programs, the relation of these programs to regional needs and to the investment potentialities of the Asian Development Bank.)

- 1968-69            Rockefeller Foundation consultant to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and to the Indian Planning Commission.
- 1968                Consultant to the Government of Kenya on agricultural marketing and price policy.
- 1965-70            Worked with the World Bank, The Asian Development Bank, FAO, major bilateral donor agencies and with Asian Governments to match the needs of programs to expand food production with internal and external sources of investment and assistance. The resultant effort was the so-called 'green revolution' in Asian food production.

BOARDS, COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS, ETC.

1. Trustee and member executive committee of the Population Council, New York: Chairman, Population Council, Trustee Review Committee.
2. Member Technical Advisory Committee to Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research.
3. Member OECD-DAC expert group on the application of science and technology to development problems of low income countries.
4. Member governing body Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, England.
5. Member Social Science Research Council of Canada.
6. Chairman, Sub-committee of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research for the establishment of an International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas.
7. Former member of the Council and Executive Committee of the Society for International Development.