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MORE CANADIAN MONEY FOR UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

A Statement by Miss Monique Bégin, Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Representing Canada at the Pledging Conference of the United Nations Development Program, on November 5, 1975.

Each year, at this Pledging Conference, Canada has the pleasure to reconfirm its continuing support for the United Nations Development Program. Nineteen seventy-five has been a year of great accomplishment for the UNDP. The Governing Council, at its twentieth session, worked constructively to adopt a mandate that would provide a new flexibility for future operations. At the same time, field, headquarters and agency personnel have worked diligently to achieve a major improvement in the Program's implementation performance.

These very successes pose in themselves significant new challenges. For perhaps the first time, implementation of the UNDP's programs is outpacing available resources. It is increasingly clear that the small group of traditional donors cannot in themselves sustain the targeted growth-rates for the UNDP, let alone move the Program dramatically forward to meet the extensive needs of the developing world. Only if countries now experiencing much more favourable economic conditions substantially increase their contributions; only if some countries remove the restrictions on the convertibility of their contributions; only if some potential contributors are prepared to overlook the political concerns by which they justify their failure to participate; only if developed countries contribute in a manner more consistent with their ability to pay; and only if the traditional donors maintain their strong support, can this Program achieve the required growth-rate. Support for the UNDP must be both open and generous, and as broad as the UN membership itself, if it is to live up to its name as the UN Development Program.

Canada is prepared to do its share in meeting this challenge. For 1976, we shall increase our regular contribution by (Canadian) \$4.5 million to a total of (Canadian) \$28.5 million. This represents an 18.7 percent increase over 1975. In addition to the regular contribution, Canada will contribute again in the coming year a supplementary sum of (Canadian) \$500,000, to be used for projects designed to accelerate the development of the least-developed countries. Thus the total Canadian contribution for 1976 will be (Canadian) \$29 million.

One of the prime considerations behind this major increase in the

Canadian pledge is our concern with the special needs of the least-developed countries and the newly-independent states. All of these commitments are subject to the eventual appropriation of funds by the Canadian Parliament.