50/2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF UNDER-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Statement by Dr. R.P. Vivian,
Canadian Representative in the Second Committee
on November 18, 1959.

"Many speakers in the general debate on economic develop-
of under-developed countries have undertaken to analyze the
economic problems facing the world at this time. A great
of stress has been laid on the unequal rates of growth in the
-developed countries as compared with that of the more developed
ries. The situation has been described in somewhat pessimistic
by many speakers. All speakers have agreed on one point: the
d Nations must continue assuming its responsibilities for find-
nswers to the complex economic and social problems that the
faces today.

In considering the problem of development, my Delegation
ruck by a remark made by Mr. Philippe de Seynes, Under-Secretary
conomic and Social Affairs, in his admirable statement at the
ning of our debate on this item. He said: "Equilibrium cannot
ieved by any simple, universally applicable prescription". A
later, he spoke of the "mutual interaction of the various
ic sectors". My Delegation wishes to take a little time to
t upon these ideas and perhaps enlarge upon them.

The world is witnessing a unique phenomenon. By a process
egan about 10 or 15 years ago, we have come to see all parts
globe embark upon determined efforts to develop their resources;
industrialize; to break the age-old pattern of subsistence living
its accompanying ills of malnutrition, disease and short life
ency. Certain successes have been achieved already, but,
ically, these have compounded the problem in its other aspects.

Great advances have been made in the application of elementary
of hygiene. As a result of this, there has been a rapid increase
live birthrate and a significant reduction in the rate of infant
ld mortality. The population figures predicted for the end of
century are truly alarming; increasingly more people will have to
. At the same time the rate of agricultural production in under-
ped areas is not increasing as rapidly as necessary to keep pace
their population increase, and at the same time improve the general
of nutrition.

In a country's effort to develop its human and physical
ces especially in the early stages, economic and technical aid
ential. It is, however, even more important for a country to
e change, as soon as possible, when it can generate its own
for development by the products of its own industries and by
ases of international trade. My colleague from Ceylon has
excellent summation when he said:

"The real answer to the problem lies in international action
ich will enable under-developed countries to generate increased
ces through their own sources and sustain them at reasonable
ates."