

External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

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ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL UNITED NATIONS FUND
FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Statement by Miss Kathleen Bowlby in the Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on February 4, 1957.

The Canadian Government's general approach to the subject of the economic development of less-developed countries has already been discussed at some length in this committee on January 8. Furthermore, my Government's position on the Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development has been described on numerous occasions. Perhaps I might quote from the general statement which is contained in the Canadian reply to the United Nations questionnaire on SUNFED.

"The Canadian Government has in the past supported a special fund in principle but has opposed its immediate establishment. The Canadian Government's final decision regarding a fund of the type now under consideration would depend in large measure on whether it was satisfied that the organizational and administrative arrangements were such as to lead to efficient operation and that the fund would command sufficient support to enable it to operate effectively".

There is nothing I can add to that statement at the present time.

It is, however, necessary for my Delegation as for other delegations in this committee to take a position concerning the desirability of drafting statutes for the proposed SUNFED and, according to the draft resolutions which we have before us, concerning the desirability of considering further steps for the early commencement of SUNFED's operations.

The Canadian Delegation cannot support any resolution which calls for the drafting of statutes. In this connection my Delegation was impressed by the honest and forthright statement made on January 30 by Mr. Hoffman of the United States Delegation. We believe that it would be a great mistake to contemplate the drafting of statutes for SUNFED if it was likely that major contributors would not be able to participate in that work. It has been suggested that participation in the drafting of statutes does not necessarily carry with it a commitment to contribute financially to any proposal based on such statutes. My Delegation does not believe that it would be useful to draft statutes for a special fund without prior agreement that a special fund should be established. The United States position, as I interpret it, is an honest one; it is that without a decision to consider participating in the proposed special fund their delegation would not feel justified in helping to draw up a constitution for SUNFED. Any government which decided to contribute to a special fund would want to assist in the preparation of its statute. I think that is a reasonable position. If statutes are prepared without taking into account the views of potential contributors those statutes would have to be re-negotiated perhaps completely if and when those major contributors decided to participate. Premature draft statutes