



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 56/7

CANADA'S ROLE IN THE UNITED NATIONS

An address by the Minister of Health and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin to the Women's Canadian Club of Quebec City, Chateau Frontenac, Quebec City, Quebec on March 19, 1956.

I am most happy to have the opportunity of visiting once again this historic city of Quebec which holds such an honoured place in the annals of Canada's development as a nation. It is also a particular pleasure for me to join the ranks of the many distinguished guests who, over the years, have had the privilege of meeting with the members of the Women's Canadian Club of this city.

Your Chairman has suggested that I say something about Canada's role in the United Nations. This I am pleased to do for during the last four months of 1955, my time was principally taken up with the affairs of this world organization. As Chairman of the Canadian Delegation to the General Assembly, I had the good fortune to be associated with an outstanding group of delegates. I shall not soon forget the assistance of Col. Oscar Gilbert, President of Le Soleil, whose wise counsel and understanding friendship were of inestimable value to me and to our delegation. Col. Gilbert devoted most of his attention to the work of the Second Committee which concerns itself with economic affairs and his wide experience and wise judgment were of great value in the discussion of such important questions as technical assistance and the economic development of the less fortunate nations.

This is not, of course, the first time that this city has made its contribution to the work of the United Nations. Indeed, my first United Nations assignment was in 1945 when I had the privilege of accompanying our present Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Louis St-Laurent, who was then Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the First Session of the General Assembly in London. At subsequent sessions of the United Nations both the Hon. Hugues Lapointe and the Hon. Jean Lesage have represented Canada on occasion and have made important contribu-