

External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

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IN THE EMERGING NATIONS

Statement by the Canadian Representative,
Miss Margaret Meagher, in the Second
Committee of the United Nations General
Assembly, Thursday, October 21, 1965.

It is now two years since the Second Committee last reviewed world economic and social developments. But it is not just this hiatus that makes this year's meeting important. More significantly, we meet now with a deeper awareness of the complexity of the problems of development. We are, perhaps, more aware now that aid alone will not suffice to ensure economic progress, that aid must be buttressed with an expansion of international trade, particularly that of the developing nations, reinforced by the dissemination and application of science and technology, and based on sound development planning.

Despite the considerable efforts made since the Second World War, the gap in living standards between the rich and the poor has widened. In many countries economic growth has barely been sufficient to keep pace with population increases and debt-servicing problems threaten to undermine development programmes. Above all, at a time when the need is mounting, the flow of development assistance has been levelling off and, in some cases, the terms on which aid is made available have become less favourable. A point has thus been reached in the struggle for development where it is all too easy to give up hope and effort in the face of the magnitude of the problem. In fact, the present juncture in world economic development demands resolute action by all of us, collectively and individually.

Canada recognizes the gravity of this situation. After more than doubling our bilateral-aid programme last year, we are increasing it again this year. As our Prime Minister said recently, the Canadian Government intends to increase its foreign-aid allocation substantially in the years ahead. In the general debate in plenary session on September 24, the Secretary of State for External Affairs said: "I want to affirm our strong support for the amalgamation of the Special Fund and Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance on satisfactory terms in a co-ordinated United Nations Development Programme, and for the continuance of the World Food Programme. Canada wants to see the projected new targets for these programmes adopted. I would expect that our own contribution will be in keeping with these United Nations objectives."

We intend to support sound innovations and will join with others in imaginative projects to accelerate economic progress. In Asia, where it is imperative that constructive activity should not be displaced by violence