

C. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL

1. North-South Relations and the 32nd Session

The first Canadian speech in the Second Committee focussed on the current state of the North-South Dialogue, as seen from a Canadian perspective. The Canadian statement emphasized the positive results of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation and on the need for the agreements reached to be implemented. Also, the speech stressed that in areas where the Paris Conference did not come to agreed conclusions, further discussion should be undertaken in the UN and other fora. Although the difficulty of the ongoing negotiations was underlined (particularly in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations and negotiations for the Common Fund for the integrated programme on commodities and debt relief), the statement reiterated Canada's commitment to successful conclusions. In addition, the Canadian statement expressed hope for the elaboration of a new international development strategy which would provide long-term guidance for the world system to accelerate the development process. The statement also touched on other matters before the Second Committee, such as the restructuring exercise, the World Conference on Science and Technology for Development, the institutional arrangements for human settlements and the International Year of the Child.

The following statement of Canada's position was made by Mr. John Small, Canadian Delegate to the Second Committee, October 4, 1977.

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As the distinguished Under-Secretary General remarked at the outset of our debate, the work of this Committee at its 32nd session could be highly significant. We are at an important juncture in North-South relationships. While the Paris Conference reached some agreements which advanced the dialogue, the issues are now again under discussion within the U.N. system. It is up to us to find the ways to ensure continuing progress.

We hope that we can concentrate on solutions which are workable. There is no escaping the fact that we are in something of a dilemma. On the one hand, we all remain firmly committed to accelerated progress in North-South relations. On the other, continued sluggish economic circumstances in the world in general, and in certain industrialized countries in particular, are making accelerated progress difficult.