

Statement No. 61

October 30, 1967

Text of statement made in the Second Committee by the Canadian representative, Mr. Bruce Rankin, on Operational Activities for Development (Item 46), October 30, 1967.

It is always a great source of satisfaction for Canada to participate in the annual discussions in this Committee of operational activities for development and, more specifically, the United Nations Development Programme and the Regular Programme of Technical Assistance. For us and, indeed, I am sure for all countries here represented, it is abundantly clear that these efforts are resulting in tangible progress. This surely is an outstanding example of the translation of Ideas, as formulated by some of us and our predecessors in these very halls, into action which is both tangible and consistently worth while.

We welcome the statements of the distinguished United Nations Commissioner for Technical Assistance (on Oct. 27) and of the Administrator of the Development Programme and senior UNDP staff members (on Oct. 30) since they have provided admirable introductions to the item now under consideration.

There have already been several opportunities during 1967 to make statements giving Canada's appraisal of the performance of the United Nations Development Programme and the Regular Programme. Since our position has already been stated--and in a word it is one of staunch support for the UNDP in its present form--I will try not to be repetitive now. I wish only to make a couple of points which we consider to be of importance in the context of any discussion regarding the UNDP and the regular programme of technical assistance.

The two reports before us, those of the third and fourth sessions of the Governing Council, are encouraging. We see a picture of progress already made and of promise for the future. 1967 has been a year in which the benefits of the merger of the Special Fund and EPTA components have been increasingly felt. This is reflected not only in the reports and the continuing high quality of the projects, but in the enthusiasm and competence of those in the UNDP headquarters who are charged with the responsibility of carrying out the management and operational duties of the Programme. 1967 was also a year in which one of the ultimate objectives of the United Nations Development Programme--that of substantial follow-up investment, both from private and public sources--began to be realized. We are informed that the total figure