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UNICEF

Statement to be made by the Canadian Permanent Representative, Mr. George Ignatieff, introducing the resolution on UNICEF, in the Third Committee, on Friday (p.m.), December 9, 1966.

I am happy to participate as Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations in this debate marking the 20th Anniversary of the founding of one of the most important and active organizations in the United Nations family. Over the past 20 years, Madam Chairman, the Canadian Delegation has played its part, a constructive part I believe, in encouraging the growth and development of UNICEF. From its earliest responsibilities as a post-war emergency organization under the able leadership of Maurice Pate, through its phase of helping mothers and children in the developing countries, UNICEF has now broadened the basis of its assistance, so that countries may receive aid for programmes directed towards all aspects of their children's development.

Today, Madam Chairman, this organization, born out of the misery and suffering in the aftermath of the last war, has become on a permanent and continuing basis, a world movement dedicated to helping to prepare children all over the world for their full adult responsibilities. My government, Madam Chairman, supports wholeheartedly the further development of UNICEF to enable it to continue its important and humanitarian tasks. It is for this reason, that earlier this afternoon, I had the honour to present to the Secretary-General, on behalf of my government, a special donation of \$100,00 in addition to the \$1,000,000 which we contribute annually to the fund. This special contribution, Madam Chairman, is given by the people of Canada as a memorial to the children who lost their lives two months ago in the Alberfan, Wales disaster and in a tragic accident which occurred recently in Dorion, Quebec. We hope that it will be considered and accepted as an appropriate and tangible expression of the way in which Canadians can express their sympathy to the parents who have suffered so much as a result of these accidents.

Before closing, Madam Chairman, I should like to introduce the draft resolution () which we now have before us. Canada is a co-sponsor of this resolution, Madam Chairman, because my government recognizes that the plight of children in certain areas of the world, continues to represent a serious problem demanding international action. My delegation hopes, therefore, on this 20th Anniversary of the founding of UNICEF, that the resolution before us will have the unanimous support of this Committee.