

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

October 26, 1967

Statement No. 55

United Nations Industrial Development Organization  
Report of the Industrial Development Board

Text of Statement made by the Canadian Representative,  
Mr. Bruce Rankin, on Draft Resolution in Document  
A/C.2/L.959 on October 26, 1967.

My delegation has listened with interest to the statement you have just made concerning the draft resolution in document A/C.2/L.959, relating to the jurisdiction of the Committee and the Fifth Committee. We continue to believe that it would have been preferable for the whole draft resolution to be considered in the Fifth Committee.

I should, however, add that my delegation is not able to support either the draft resolution in document A/C.2/L.959 or the amendment to operative paragraph 3 suggested by the Soviet Union a few days ago. Canadian delegations to the first session of the Industrial Development Board and to the forty-third session of ECOSOC have already explained the reasons why we are convinced that nothing is to be gained and, indeed, something is to be lost through the introduction, into section V of the regular budget, of a specific allocation for industrial development. United Nations assistance programmes have been firmly founded on the principle that projects will be undertaken in response to country requests. Originally, another system was attempted whereby funds were allocated for specific activities and the freedom of recipient governments to choose what projects they wanted was accordingly limited. This system was found unsatisfactory and abolished. At its summer session in 1964, ECOSOC reduced the number of sections in Part V of the regular budget from five to three. The Council took this decision after consulting recipient governments. Fifty-four such governments replied to an enquiry from the Secretary-General about their preferences between a system where Part V funds would be spent solely on the basis of priorities assigned by the recipient countries and a system whereby a framework would be determined by assigned sections. Forty-six of the fifty-four developing countries who replied to the Secretary-General's query favoured the country request system.

It would be most unfortunate if this session of the General Assembly were to take a step which could lead backwards to that earlier system which was found unsatisfactory. The introduction of specific allocations within section V of the regular budget can only lead to rigidities and a fragmentation of effort which can be to no country's benefit.