



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 57/5

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF UNDER-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Excerpts from a Statement by Senator David Croll in the Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, on January 8, 1957.

I do not propose, at this stage, to discuss SUNFED, industrialization or international taxation. Furthermore, while my country has, in recent years, developed dramatically from a predominantly agricultural economy to an industrial and commercial nation of world importance, I do not feel that it would now be appropriate to discuss Canadian economic experience at great length, worthy of examination and study as that experience may be.

Within the limitations which I have set myself, there are, nevertheless, a number of important questions concerning the economic development of the under-developed countries which I would like to discuss briefly before turning to the resolution before you which my Delegation has the honour to co-sponsor with the Delegation of Norway.

Canadians are an introspective people. We tend to be even harder on ourselves than on our friends. We have no real enemies. For example, there have been a number of books and statements made recently in Canada to the effect that Canadian politics are dull. If by "dull" one means stable, practical, progressive and constructive, then I think that any Canadian could accept this description without argument. Perhaps this type of dullness has advantages which it would be appropriate for me to mention with regard to current international economic problems. Countries who, like Canada, are countries embarking on economic development programmes must secure the confidence of other members of the international community and, in addition, enjoy those conditions of internal stability which are necessary for the success of ambitious development plans.

It is the conclusion of my Delegation that communist or dictatorial regimes, while capable of swift and ruthless action of a kind which is neither possible nor desirable under a democratic form of government, are liable to erratic changes of policy