

External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

No. 61/13 Budget Estimates for 1962

Statement by Mr. J.H. Price, Canadian Representative, in the 5th Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on October 7, 1961.

Mr. Chairman: It gives my delegation great pleasure to add its congratulations to those which have been extended to you by other speakers on your election to the chairmanship of this Committee. My delegation will certainly extend to you its fullest co-operation so that we can conclude our lengthy agenda, which contains a number of very difficult questions, in good time for the closing date set for the session. It would certainly be a reflection on all of us here if this Committee, which is charged with ensuring that the United Nations is run in an orderly and effective way, should be guilty of such conduct as to finish its work late or not at all. However, judging by the way you have guided, or I might even say propelled our discussions along in the past few days, I have no real fear on that score.

I should like also to extend our delegation's warm congratulations to our friend and colleague from Ceylon, Mr. Edwards, on his election to the vice-chairmanship. We have also, I believe, made an excellent choice in our rapporteur, Mr. Arraiz of Venezuela. My delegation recalls with pleasure the fruitful and useful discussions which we had with him at the resumed session on some of the most important matters which were then under consideration.

Mr. Chairman, we, in this Administrative and Budget Committee, are meeting this year under very difficult circumstances. The organization has lost its chief administrative officer and it cannot but feel this great loss keenly. A number of items on our agenda depend very much on the views of the chief administrative officer of this organization and our task in dealing with them will not be an easy one. During his tenure of office, the late Secretary-General gave a great deal of thought to the building of this international instrument, which has been laboriously developed with the help of many dedicated people over the years. By insisting on wise and prudent procedures and by the imaginative use of the powers which were accorded to him under the Charter, this organization assumed a vitality which gave true meaning to the aspirations expressed in the purposes and principles of the Charter. I can think of no more fitting tribute to the man who has done so much in the philosophical as well as practical development of the United Nations than for us all here to continue this work with a minimum of factionalism and self-interest so that the United Nations can continue to develop in the same positive direction and potential which is contained in the provisions of the Charter.

The Fifth Committee is a technical committee. It is our job here to examine how best the organization can discharge the duties which the policy-making bodies and organs have placed upon it and to see that there are adequate finances to meet the obligations