

No. 53/66 EXPANDED PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Text of a statement made on October 15, 1953 by Mr. S.D. Hemsley, Canadian Representative, in the Fifth Committee of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, on sections 9, 27, 28 and 29 of the budget estimates relating to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (agenda item 27).

Note: - The text of the resolution adopted by the Assembly and the results of the voting are included at the end of the statement.

My intervention will be brief.

Although I would agree with the representative of Belgium who yesterday said that all we are concerned with here are administrative costs and not programmes, nevertheless I think it not inappropriate to make a brief reference to the wider aspects of the Technical Assistance Administration. This will, of course, be dealt with at greater length by my delegation in Committee Two, where the subject properly belongs.

I feel it necessary to do this; for a suggestion was made - in support of a ceiling lower than the one recommended by the Advisory Committee - that the programme may be smaller this coming year. That of course will not be known finally until after the Pledging Conference.

But I would be remiss if I did not point out now that it is the hope of my delegation that governments will pledge as recommended by the Economic and Social Council to keep the programme for next year at least at the level planned for 1953. We believe, then, that it would be reasonable to consider the administrative requirements in the light of that hope.

My delegation shares the concern of other delegations that the Technical Assistance Programme should be administered as efficiently and as economically as possible; and we would hope that this would be made the subject of a most searching enquiry. But we would hope that nothing would be done now that might impair the effectiveness or the scope of the programmes.

With these considerations in mind, and recalling the willingness of the Director-General to make every effort to follow the advice of the Advisory Committee to work for further reductions wherever possible, the inclination of my delegation at this time is to follow the recommendation of the Advisory Committee.

We will, however, reserve our position until we have heard further from other delegations, and particularly from the Director-General again and from the Chairman of the Advisory Committee.