



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
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ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Statement by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, and Chairman of the Canadian Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Paul Martin, Made in the Second Committee October 14, 1955.

The Canadian Government is acutely aware of the growing importance in world affairs of the part played by the United Nations in assisting in the economic progress of the less developed countries. We recognize that the more quickly standards of living throughout the world are raised, the easier it will be to maintain peace. The United Nations is showing through its concern with this problem its awareness that world-wide economic and social progress is fundamental to the establishment of permanent and world-wide security; its contributions towards this end are being made by a number of agencies and in a variety of ways. We in this Committee, through our agenda, focus our attention on the financing of economic development and on the Technical Assistance Programmes. We must not lose sight, however, of the valuable work being done in these fields by such agencies as WHO, FAO and UNESCO. It is essential that economic and social inequalities between countries, which are bound to be sources of dissatisfaction and of international tensions, be reduced to the degree that is humanly possible.

In this endeavour, the United Nations and certain of the Specialized Agencies are playing an important part; further, the countries, which, through their more favoured economic position, are able to assist and are assisting, can derive considerable satisfaction for the successes achieved so far. This international cooperation is a new element in international affairs. One has only to look back to pre-World War II days to see the distance travelled. There is little point here in referring to circumstances which have delayed a wider application of the principle of brotherhood; but this new and encouraging element reveals mankind at its best.

Our Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, has referred to this co-operative activity within the United Nations as "one of the most heartening aspects of the international scene". In the same speech delivered to the Conference of the United Nations Associations in Canada, in Ottawa in May of this year, Mr. Pearson went on to say: "Anyone who is inclined to feel discouraged by the difficulties encountered by the United Nations in its efforts to resolve world political problems might well reflect on the extent to which the countries comprising it have been able to co-operate in meeting the challenge of economic development on a world-wide basis. The activities of the