

Mr. Chairman, I was struck by the comments, made by the distinguished representative of Mexico on November 1, concerning the need for concentrating the use of the resources available for technical assistance under the United Nations. In this connection I may say that the Canadian Delegation supports the decision of the Technical Assistance Board subsequently approved by the ECOSOC further to consider the expansion of technical assistance activities under the Expanded Programme in Europe before any new programme was recommended. As the distinguished delegate of France has already noted, this provisional decision was taken as a temporary measure and without prejudice to the basic principles governing the programme. In general, however, the Canadian Delegation believes that any concentration which is achieved under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance should be a concentration of subject and that, far from concentrating its resources geographically, the Expanded Programme should make its services available to countries and territories that need those services, without geographical restrictions or limitations.

Our Mexican colleague was, however, referring particularly -- if we understood him correctly -- to the importance of concentrating the resources of the Expanded Programme on particularly useful and important subjects and activities. He correctly noted, of course, that these subjects and activities would have to be chosen by the recipient countries themselves under the terms of the country programming procedure. I think that it might be desirable for the Technical Assistance Committee to study the possibility of suggesting to member governments that their requests for technical assistance be concentrated on subjects and activities for which the United Nations programmes are particularly well qualified to provide assistance. For example, it may be that some countries would like to concentrate United Nations technical assistance on developing and establishing their over-all economic development programmes. Other countries might wish to emphasize the development of natural resources; still others, industrial development. Some governments might wish to concentrate United Nations assistance on the provision of assistance in the field of public administration. In effect, our Mexican colleague suggested that, whatever the subject, the resources for the Expanded Programme might be better used if concentrated somewhat more than at present. It is obvious in this as in other programmes that an attempt to do everything well is likely to result in failure to do anything well. Perhaps the Technical Assistance Committee could study this question.

The Canadian Delegation has been most interested to see that the distinction between donors and receivers under the Expanded Programme is rapidly disappearing. This is a tendency which we are sure all governments support. All countries, no matter how great their own general needs for technical assistance may be, have some particular background of experience which may be useful to other countries. Particularly within the various regions there is no doubt that an exchange of experience can bring great benefits. Even those countries now facing serious economic