

1965 - International Co-operation Year

On November 21, 1963, the United Nations General Assembly decided by acclamation to designate 1965, the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations, as International Co-operation Year. The following is the text of a statement by Mr. Paul Tremblay, Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, on November 20, regarding the report of the Preparatory Committee on the International Co-operation Year:

Last year a number of delegations, including my own, co-sponsored a resolution which established a Preparatory Committee to consider the possibility of designating 1965 as a year of international co-operation. Canada is gratified that the Preparatory Committee has recommended that 1965 should be designated as International Co-operation Year.

My Delegation believes that much practical value can be gained from devoting a year to the promotion of international co-operation. One of the characteristics of the twentieth century has been the enormous advance in the speed of communications. The world has suddenly grown small. It is now necessary for each of us to take account of developments even in countries on the other side of the globe. Moreover, newspapers, the radio and television report events around the world almost as they happen. The pressure of the press, of legislatures and of public opinion oblige our governments to take positions. As never before in history, we are all involved in each other's affairs.

Coinciding with this development has been the remarkable increase in the scale of governmental activities. To the common man these increasingly large administrations seem to be rather impersonal. With industrialization and urbanization, and now with automation, people feel themselves in the grip of uncontrollable man-made forces which determine their destinies.

Individual Desire for Involvement

The conjunction of these two developments is particularly striking in the field of international affairs. People are urged daily by the press, radio and television to form opinions, to hold views, in other words to take a personal interest in world affairs. But it is difficult for most people to find an appropriate outlet for this interest once it has been created. In my own country, for example, there is a rapidly-growing interest in international affairs, and a desire on the part of many Canadians to become involved in some way in helping to overcome the many problems which face the world.

It is against this background that my Delegation welcomes the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee that 1965 be designated as International Co-operation Year. We believe that this year should enable individuals and groups