

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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UN 1968 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Text of Statement to be Delivered in the General
Debate on the United Nations 1968 Budget Estimates
by the Canadian Representative in the Fifth
Committee, Mr. Lloyd Francis, on October 19, 1967.

The Fifth Committee meets this year at an important juncture in the administrative and budgetary field in the life of the United Nations. Over its first twenty years, the Organization developed rapidly in a largely ad hoc manner, mushrooming into a complex of specialized agencies, regional and functional commissions, expert groups and development programmes. With the noble preamble to the Charter as our blueprint, my delegation has never doubted that during this process we were building on the right foundation. However, after 20 years of continuous development it was reasonable to question whether the structure we had built on this foundation was fully rational and efficient in its administrative and budgetary procedures. Over the last two years we have been engaged in reassessing the institutional edifice which we have gradually constructed in order to determine in what ways it might be better equipped to serve today's international community.

It was in this spirit that my country welcomed the establishment two years ago of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts on UN Finances to examine the finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies and it was in this same spirit that we willingly served on this Committee. We welcomed the Ad Hoc Committee not because we anticipated that its recommendations for administrative and budgetary innovation would help limit the rate of growth of the organization and save expenses for the Canadian tax payer, but rather because we felt it could make recommendations which would, if accepted, lead to greater efficiency in operations, thus ensuring that member states would obtain increasingly greater value from the resources which they placed at the disposal of the United Nations.