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Statement by H. E. Mr. W. A. Irwin, Canadian Representative
at the 1960 United Nations Pledging Conference
on the
Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the Special Fund
Thursday, October 13.

Mr. President,

A little over two weeks ago, in his address to the General Assembly, the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker, emphasized the importance which Canada attaches to the role of economic and technical assistance in today's dynamically changing world. He considered it imperative that assistance through United Nations' channels to the newly emergent states, particularly those of Africa, should be increased, and pledged that Canada, for her part, would not only maintain the level of her contributions to the United Nations aid programmes but would make significant increases. The Canadian Government has also undertaken and is maintaining additional bilateral commitments under Commonwealth auspices respecting aid to Africa.

It is clear that the funds available to the United Nations for economic and technical assistance must be substantially enlarged if the needs arising out of this year's dramatic expansion of the United Nations are to be met. It is equally clear that the requirements for economic aid in Latin America, the Middle East and South and Southeast Asia remain of the highest importance and that there must be no impairment of existing programmes in these areas.

The United Nations Special Fund, established only two years ago to enable countries in the less developed regions to undertake essential activities of a pre-investment nature, has, in the view of my Government, been brilliantly and creatively administered during the short span of its operation. My Government considers that the Special Fund fulfils a unique role in preparing the ground for private and public, national and international, capital investment. Mr. President, I have been authorized to inform the Conference that, subject to Parliamentary approval, the Government of Canada will this year contribute the sum of \$2,350,000 (US) to the Special Fund--an increase of \$350,000 over last year's contribution.

It is no less essential, in the opinion of Canada, that adequate funds should be made available to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. This great co-operative programme, drawing upon the services of the specialized agencies and of member governments for the provision of experts and