

UN Finances

No. 61/7

Statement by Senator F.M. Blois, Canadian Representative on the Fifth Committee, on Tuesday, April 18, 1961.

... My Delegation would like at this time to make some observations about the draft resolutions before us and also to explain to the Committee what my Delegation had in mind when it tabled the draft resolution contained in Document L.664.

The discussions we have had here so far have encouraged my Delegation greatly. There has been a free and frank exchange of opinion and much thoughtful analysis of the problems with which we are faced both in the particular case of Congo finances and in the more general context of the finances of the organization as a whole. My Delegation has been heartened by this discussion since from the beginning of this session it had hoped there would be an opportunity for the Fifth Committee to examine a number of general questions bearing on the financial stability of the organization. Unfortunately, for one reason and another, our Committee began its work late and we have not had the opportunity which the Canadian Delegation would have liked to look at some of the broader implications of our work.

The Canadian Delegation has said before, and wishes to repeat now, its firm conviction that what we do in this Committee now and at the sixteenth session, or what we fail to do, to put our financial house in order will have far-reaching consequence, the full extent of which we may not even be able to assess at this time.

My Delegation has spoken of the interdependence of the various activities of the United Nations - how the support or lack of support for one aspect of the United Nations has direct repercussions on the effectiveness of other facets of the organization's work. It seems to me that most of the members who have spoken in this debate have recognized this interdependence, and the support which has been given to the ideas which we have put forward have encouraged my Delegation to introduce a draft which would have as its objective the initiation of a discussion at the sixteenth session on the many inter-related aspects of the work of this organization insofar as we, in this administrative and budgetary Committee, can discuss them.

... At the outset of our discussions this Committee heard a most important statement delivered by the Chairman of the Latin American group in which, in the name of that group, he put forward certain ideas and suggestions which were later incorporated in the draft resolution contained in Document L.658. The analysis which the Chairman of the Latin American group made for the Committee, and which was later developed by many members of that group, raised many of the fundamental points which the Canadian Delegation wanted to have discussed at this resumed session. The principles upon which the Latin American proposal is based, and the preoccupations which were expressed merit the attention of us all, since they represent a serious and thoughtful attempt to get to the root of the problems which beset us and find answers which not only satisfy short term and temporary requirements but which must be found if the sort of long-term solution that my Delegation considers essential can be devised.