

Text of a statement made on November 15, 1954  
by Mr. Paul Martin, Acting Chairman of the  
ninth session of the United Nations General  
Assembly, New York, on agenda item 41 -  
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of  
the expenses of the United Nations: Report of  
the Committee on Contributions

NOTE: The text of the resolution adopted by the  
Committee and the results of the voting  
are included at the end of the statement.

The Canadian Government has long recognized  
that the Committee on Contributions has a difficult task  
to perform. Canadian Delegations in past sessions of  
the General Assembly have always expressed their  
appreciation of the Committee's conscientious efforts to  
provide a reasonable basis for apportioning the expenses  
of the United Nations. They have in particular, supported  
Committee proposals designed to remove maladjustments and  
make possible a more permanent scale which would remain  
in effect for a period of at least three years. Canada  
has always voted for the adoption of the scale of assess-  
ments recommended by the Contributions Committee.

It is therefore a matter of real regret to the  
Canadian Government that it must disagree with the  
Committee's opinion -- contained in paragraph 13 of its  
Report -- that the decision taken by the seventh assembly  
to defer further action on the per capita principle applies  
to the per capita payment and not the percentage assessment.  
In our view an examination of the record clearly demonstrates  
that the Committee's interpretation contravenes Assembly  
Resolution 665 (VII) and defeats the purpose of the per  
capita principle.

Members of this Committee will recall that the  
seventh assembly directive grew out of the Committee's  
Contributions' recommendation that the Assembly partially  
apply the per capita principle by granting "some  
reductions" to New Zealand, Sweden and Canada. When this  
proposal was debated during the seventh session, several  
members noted that immediate application of the per capita  
ceiling would shift part of the financial burden from  
countries with high per capita incomes to those less able  
to pay. To relieve these fears, the Canadian represen-  
tative gave assurances that the Canadian Government would  
be satisfied to have the per capita principle applied  
as improvements in the economic capacity of other member  
states or the admission of new members permitted the  
additional burdens to be readily absorbed. In accordance  
with this view, Canada supported an Egyptian amendment  
calling on the Contributions Committee to continue to  
give additional recognition to countries with low per  
capita incomes. Although the Egyptian-Canadian resolution