

No. 60/10 REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Statement by Mrs. H. H. Steen, Canadian Representative
on the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural)
Committee of the United Nations October 17, 1960

Mr. Chairman:

Over the past week, we have heard many speakers representing the various social, economic and political systems of the world discussing those parts of the Economic and Social Council Report of vital interest to them. Those of us who are new to the Committee have not failed to be impressed by the magnitude of the social, humanitarian and cultural problems facing the United Nations which has been revealed in these statements.

In deference to the appeal which you have made for speakers to be brief, I shall restrict my remarks to a few salient points in the Report. By omitting reference to other items, my intention is not, of course, to minimize their importance.

The distinguished delegates who have preceded me have, rightly I think, singled out the work of UNICEF for special attention in their remarks. The report on UNICEF activities serves to point up UNICEF's dynamic character. Established originally to meet the emergency needs of children in war-devastated countries, it has evolved into an agency assisting governments to develop permanent health, nutrition and welfare services for children in order to combat diseases to which children are particularly susceptible. More recently it has extended its aid to include projects providing social services for children and has put increased emphasis on training programmes. At the same time it has continued to respond promptly and effectively to needs for emergency relief.

In other words, UNICEF has not contented itself with simply continuing along established patterns but has constantly sought to improve its service to the needy children of the world. I note in this regard that the Executive Board at its session next June intends to undertake "a systematic review of children's needs and the opportunities for action in order to determine more precisely the most important areas requiring national efforts and international aid in the future, and the best ways of giving such aid". I also note that this survey is to be made on the basis of an analysis prepared by the Executive Director in consultation with the Specialized Agencies and taking into account the views of recipient countries as to their own priority needs.

UNICEF's changing outlook and its great reputation for providing effective assistance has meant that demands made upon it continue to be pressing.

I do not pretend to know how the increased financial resources which will be required to meet these demands are to be obtained in these days when heavy demands are being made on national budgets from so many other directions. The distinguished delegate of the U.S.S.R. and others have suggested that savings from disarmament are one source of funds for economic and social