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Economic Development

Text of Statement to be delivered
in the Second Committee by the
Canadian Representative, Ambassador
Margaret Meagher, Thursday, October
21, 1965.

It is now two years since the Second Committee last reviewed world economic and social developments. But it is not just this hiatus that makes this year's meeting important. More significantly, we meet now with a deeper awareness of the complexity of the problems of development. We are perhaps more aware now that aid alone will not suffice to ensure economic progress; that aid must be buttressed with an expansion of international trade, particularly that of the developing nations, reinforced by the dissemination and application of science and technology, and based on sound development planning.

Despite the considerable efforts made since World War II, the gap in living standards between the rich and poor has widened. In many countries economic growth has barely been sufficient to keep pace with population increases and debt servicing problems threaten to undermine development programmes. Above all, at a time when the need is mounting, the flow of development assistance has been levelling off and in some cases the terms on which aid is made available have become less favourable. A point has thus been reached in the struggle for development where it is all too easy to give up hope and effort in the face of the magnitude of the problem. In fact, the present juncture in world economic development demands resolute action by all of us, collectively and individually.