

Since this is apparently not to be, - and the interventions made thus far by other delegates seem for the most part to concern themselves mainly with the form of the resolution to be adopted, and the procedure for disposing of the question - the Canadian Delegation would like to place on the record, in very brief fashion, its opinion on a number of points relating to this programme of concerted and practical action:

1. First, it considers, that one of the most valuable results, of the effort that has been made over the past year or more to formulate a programme of concerted practical action in the social field, has been the concentration of effort in certain clearly defined areas where there is some prospect of achieving practical and worthwhile results. In this respect, it cannot agree with the view expressed by the Delegation of the United Kingdom, that the result of this attempt to formulate a programme has been, or will be, to scatter and disperse, rather than to concentrate the efforts of the United Nations and its specialized agencies!

2. Then, it seems clear to the Canadian Delegation, that as a result of the process of stock-taking and of self-appraisal that was necessary in order to make it possible for the Secretary-General to come forward with a proposed programme of concerted practical action, the true role and function of the United Nations in the social field has emerged more clearly than ever before. That role is one of guidance, direction, stimulation, encouragement, and co-ordination of effort over a broad range of social action on the part of the various specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private welfare institutions, as well as on the part of the Secretariat itself. If a social problem such as housing, care of the aged, (or whatever it may be), requires attention, it does not necessarily follow from that that the United Nations, through its Social Affairs Department, must undertake to enter that field directly and on its own account! Our experience in developing this plan for a concerted programme of practical action has taught us, I think, that it may be equally effective for the Secretary-General in his role of co-ordination and stimulation to ensure that the task in hand can be allocated to some appropriate specialized agency, or other organization with facilities and resources, to undertake the task in adequate fashion.

The result of this approach to the problem will, in the view of the Canadian Delegation, be an economy of effort, time and funds on the part of all concerned; our joint efforts will in fact be concerted efforts, with all agencies and organs working together in their appropriate fields, and on the tasks that have been assigned to them, and that they have agreed to take; and the results of such a concerted and concentrated approach to the social problems we must face are likely to be much more practical than if we disperse and dissipate our funds and energies, as we have been tempted to do in the past, over too wide a range of unrelated, and sometimes inconsequential, undertakings.