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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Text of Statement to be made by the Canadian Representative, Mr. Donald S. Macdonald, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, in the Second Committee on Friday, October 7, 1966.

Mr. Chairman,

On the agenda of this Twenty-first Session of the General Assembly there are no items more important than those concerned with the various facets of the complex problem of economic development. They rank first in importance because they are uppermost among the preoccupations of the majority of United Nations members as they struggle to realize their individual national goals. They also rank first in importance because problems of economic development and measures which are taken in response to them are of such paramount significance for relations between all states today. The collective action which the community of nations takes to meet the challenge of under-development will determine whether we achieve lasting peace, stability and prosperity-- in short, the kind of world to which this Organization is dedicated.

Over the past year, prolonged, thorough and useful discussions have been held upon major problems of development in a series of important international meetings. Their point of departure has been the growing body of disquieting evidence that we are seriously behind schedule in our efforts to attain the objectives we set for the Development Decade. I would not wish to speak here of shattered illusions, but the only realistic basis for our discussions in this Committee must be the recognition that, if the goals of the Decade are not to elude our reach, nations of this world-- and here I quote from what the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs said on this subject in the General Debate of this Assembly a fortnight ago. "The nations of this world are going to have to make common cause and sacrifice on a scale that is only beginning to be appreciated and up to now certainly has not generally been accepted."