

No. 54/30/UN9/7

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF UNDER-
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Texts of statements on October 12, 1945⁵⁴, and November 16, 1954, by Senator Charles B. Howard, Canadian Representative in the Second Committee of the ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, on agenda item 25 - Economic development of under-developed countries.

Note: The text of a resolution adopted by the Committee and the results of the voting are included at the end of the statements.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as Chairman of the Second Committee. I consider it a great honour to have been called upon to represent Canada in this Committee and to be associated with you and the other distinguished representatives in its work.

The General debate on economic development which has occupied this Committee for the past week has once again demonstrated, Mr. Chairman, that there is little disagreement among members of the United Nations about the importance of international action to improve living standards in many parts of the world. The Canadian Government is among those which have given concrete evidence that they are fully aware of the serious problems arising out of the unequal distribution of wealth among nations and of the need to accelerate the economic development of under-developed countries. The magnitude of these problems has been underlined in the valuable report of Mr. Scheyven who, in reviewing arguments for and against the early establishment of a Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development, pointed out that the campaign against poverty is a vast operation and that the Special Fund, by itself, cannot resolve existing difficulties.

The Canadian Representative in the debate on economic development during the eighth General Assembly, indicated his support in principle for the eventual establishment of an international development fund. Canada also joined in the declaration contained in Resolution 724A of the eighth Assembly whereby the members of the United Nations undertook to ask their peoples, when sufficient progress has been made in internationally supervised world-wide disarmament, to devote a portion of the savings achieved through disarmament to such an international fund, operating within the framework of the United Nations.

During the present debate, the representatives of some countries have expressed their opinion that it was unwise to subordinate economic development to disarmament. They suggested that the time has come when