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STATEMENT BY THE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA
AT THE PLEDGING CONFERENCE FOR EXTRA BUDGETARY FUNDS (UNRWA)
December 20, 1962

The annual report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA this year is of particular interest and significance because Dr. Davis has been able to report the successful implementation of the broad programme to assist the younger refugees which was started in 1959. This extensive expansion of educational facilities which the Agency has carried out, while continuing its vital relief function, testifies to the vision and dedication with which the Commissioner-General and his staff approach their responsibilities. Their efforts are deserving of the warmest commendation, and our full support.

The complexities of the Palestinian refugee problem make it essential that UNRWA should continue a very substantial relief operation. Canada's support for the Agency has related primarily to our humanitarian concern for the welfare of the refugees.

At the same time, we have been very much interested in the growing education programme of the Agency, especially in the field of vocational training. My Delegation shares the view expressed by Dr. Davis that this aspect of the Agency's work is both vital for the young people directly involved, and important as a contribution to the technical and economic progress of the region.

The approach reflected in the three-year programme for expanding educational opportunities merits increasing attention. Parallel with the maintenance of essential relief services, it is through the training of the refugee children and young adults to help themselves and gradually become self-supporting that we may look toward a brighter future for these unfortunate people. In this direction lies hope of enabling progressively increasing numbers of the refugees to realize their undoubted aspirations and capabilities to take up a normal, productive way of life.