

External Affairs  
Supplementary Paper

No. 53/33 EXPANDED PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Text of the statement made on September 28, 1953, by the Canadian representative in the Second Committee of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, Senator S.S. McKeen. (Agenda items 27 & 61)

I do not propose, in this general debate on technical assistance, to make a long speech or to go into time-consuming detail. I simply wish to reaffirm my country's belief in and continued support for the technical assistance programmes. The concept of mutual aid and enlightened self-help which is the basis of all these programmes--that of the United Nations, the Colombo Plan sponsored by several countries of the Commonwealth, and the United States bilateral arrangements--is one of the most fruitful and significant developments in international affairs since the Second World War. Certainly, none gives to those peoples of the world who are still living in comparative poverty greater assurance that others more fortunate stand ready to co-operate with them in their struggle towards a future free from material want and unnecessary suffering; none gives the under-developed countries themselves a better opportunity to help one another by exchange of skills and training; none contributes in a more useful and constructive way to the achievement of the objectives set forth in Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter.

It is well known to Committee members here that the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, which was launched in June 1950, was slow to gain momentum, that in the first two years or so of operation requests for assistance from the under-developed areas lagged behind available resources. This slow start is hardly surprising; the idea was new, the methods of implementation unexplored, and the very lack of technical experts sometimes made it difficult to determine the precise field and the precise way in which help would be most valuable. No one can now be in any doubt that the expanded programme is fully under way and that the most varied range of services is being asked for and provided - that is within the financial limitations referred to by the Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board. Merely as an illustration which has come to my own attention, I might mention that, according to press releases issued by the United Nations Department of Public Information since the Assembly began its session--and the information is certainly not exhaustive--a Canadian expert has gone to Venezuela to help draw up the plans of a rehabilitation centre for the physically handicapped; a consultant from the Netherlands has gone to Pakistan to give advice on improving the design of the many wooden craft which ply the inland waters there; an official of the Uruguayan Minister of Industry is to assist the Nicaraguan Government in the preparation and administration of a new tariff law; a French expert will assist in the extension and