

in the past to the work of the Council has been largely a second-hand one. He calls this perhaps one of the greatest weaknesses of the Canadian contribution. Canada is not alone in this position. As a matter of fact in checking over the fifty-three agenda items of the 8th Session, it has been brought home to me that not one of these was an original item placed on the Agenda by any member government. They were all either in the nature of reports from the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies or regional Commissions, or had previously been raised by non-governmental organizations, such as the W.F.T.U. and the A.F. of L.

7. Summing up, I believe that the suggestion that Canada appoint an observer to attend the meetings of the Council during 1949 was an excellent one. I believe that this action has been appreciated by the members of the Council and its significance has been noted. It would be my opinion that Canada could get re-elected without much trouble if we chose to stand for re-election. I think that someone (perhaps from the office of our delegation to the European office of the United Nations) should observe the meetings of the 9th Session of the Council this coming July in Geneva. Finally, for the reasons cited above I would think that it is neither necessary nor desirable that Canada should, at this time, place an item on the agenda of the Council.

I have, etc.

G. IGNATIEFF

for A.G.L. McNaughton, Permanent Delegate

221.

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*Note du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures  
pour le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs  
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

CONFIDENTIAL

Ottawa, July 8, 1949

CANADIAN MEMBERSHIP ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

*Background:*

At the Ninth Session of the Economic and Social Council which opened on July 5, there will be considerable electioneering activity on the part of countries which hope to be elected, by the General Assembly in the fall, to the five Council seats which become vacant this year. The Canadian observer at the Ninth Session, Mr. N.F.H. Berlis, will certainly be approached both with requests for support and with inquiries whether Canada wishes to stand for election. Moreover, Dean Rusk of the U.S. State Department, in a recent conversation with Mr. Wrong, suggested that the U.S. would be glad to know whether Canada would accept election.

It is accordingly advisable to reach a decision on this point as soon as possible. I have prepared below brief notes which would perhaps be adequate if you wish to