

The following delegations made little or no contribution to the work of the Council. Indonesia, Finland, Greece, Costa Rica, China and Poland (the latter did not always vote exactly as did the U.S.S.R.).

Canadian Delegation

As already noted the Delegation was active in the negotiation of the main decisions at the 26th session. It was sometimes difficult to influence proposals promoted by the U.S.A., U.K. and the Netherlands Delegations. Most members of these three Delegations attended a number of sessions of the Council. Because of their established relationships with other delegations and the Secretariat, they exercise considerable influence over its proceedings. This consideration might be borne in mind in selecting Canadian representatives to ECOSOC and to other United Nations bodies. Of course the Agenda of ECOSOC and the nature of the problems discussed in that body are more continuous in nature than is the case for example in the General Assembly.

The Delegation considers that as in the case of other United Nations bodies there is much to be gained by anticipating the issues likely to arise. The Delegation also believes that there should be more prior discussions between friendly and Western Delegations before United Nations sessions, so that the West is not always placed in the position of reacting to Soviet proposals without constructive alternatives of its own. Taking initiatives for the sake of taking initiatives is not of course contemplated, but at least more carefully coordinated and more specific positions could be prepared by Western and friendly delegations. The alternative as shown by the 26th session of ECOSOC is to improvise stop-gap responses to initiatives frequently from the U.S.S.R. In general, the Delegation endeavoured to protect Canada's respected reputation in United Nations economic, social and human rights matters. This reputation can be used effectively when serious conflicts arise. Such conflicts did not, however, arise, or were prevented from arising, at the 26th session of ECOSOC.

One of the main contributions of the Canadian Delegation to ECOSOC during 1958 was Dr. George Davidson's presidency of the Council. Credit was reflected on Canada and on the Delegation as a result of Dr. Davidson's contributions to the work of the Council. Attached† as Appendix I to this report is Dr. Davidson's closing address as President which should be reproduced with this report.³⁰

³⁰ Pour un sommaire du discours de Davidson, voir Nations Unies, Conseil Économique et Social, *Documents Officiels*, Vingt-sixième session, pp. 166 à 167.

For a summary of Davidson's speech, see United Nations, Economic and Social Council, *Official Records*, Twenty-sixth session, pp. 150-151.