

External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

No. 53/75 Programme of Concerted Action in the Social
Field

Text of a statement made on October 8, 1953, by Mrs. A.L. Caldwell, Canadian representative, in the Third Committee of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, on agenda item 66 - Programme of concerted practical action in the social field of the United Nations and the specialized agencies

Note - The text of the resolution adopted by the General Assembly and the results of the voting are included at the end of the statement.

I must confess at the outset that the Canadian Delegation shares the disappointment expressed by a number of other delegates, that the discussion on this item now before the Committee has until this morning dealt so little with substantive matters.

We recognize, of course, that the Social Commission at its meeting in the early part of this year; and the Economic and Social Council at its sixteenth session this past summer in Geneva, had an opportunity to consider in all its aspects the document prepared by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the executive heads of the specialized agencies concerned, and entitled "Programme of Concerted Practical Action in the Social Field of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies" [(E/CN.5/291 and addenda).] In the preparation of this important document, the Secretary-General had requested the observations of member governments: and the Government of Canada, in addition to giving its preliminary views on this question during the discussion of the Preliminary Report on the World Social Situation at the fourteenth session of the Council, had also submitted a more detailed elaboration of its views in response to the request of the Secretary-General. Further than that again, the Canadian representative on the Social Commission had an opportunity once again to offer certain observations on the best means of achieving a programme of concerted practical action in the social field, at the time when the Social Commission was considering this item at its session in the spring of this year.

It might indeed be said that in view of all these earlier opportunities to present the point of view of the government and people of Canada, a further debate on the substance of this matter at this time could only prove superfluous. This may be true, yet here, and here alone, in this Third Committee of the General Assembly, do all member states of the United Nations have the opportunity to exchange their points of view on these important social questions: and that is why the Canadian Delegation had rather hoped that this debate would provide an opportunity for the substantive discussion of this whole question on a level that would have done justice to the importance of the subject itself.