

As was indicated, last autumn the Soviet representative made a pledge of approximately \$1 million to the United Nations scheme for the current year 1953 but, as pointed out, that pledge was hedged around with certain conditions which were not satisfactory to the United Nations technical assistance administration because they violated the principles which govern technical assistance and which were laid down by the Economic and Social Council. However, that matter is being taken up with the Soviet government by the United Nations officials in charge of this activity, and it is hoped that those conditions will be withdrawn so that this amount can be used in the way in which it should be used, without strings attached.

The Canadian contribution to technical assistance has been exceeded only by that of the United Kingdom, the United States and France in the past. If Parliament votes the amount which probably will be requested this year in the main and supplementary estimates, Canada's contribution will be the third largest of the members of the United Nations. I do not think that is anything we should say boastfully, but it does at least show we are playing a respectable part in this very important effort.

We are also playing a part not only in the contribution of funds but in the contribution of experts through the United Nations. In Canada today there are 217 United Nations technical assistance trainees out of a total of 300; the rest of them come under the Colombo Plan programme. And there are 96 Canadian experts now serving abroad in the United Nations.

Under the Colombo Plan programme it has been difficult to find as many qualified people as we have been asked to provide and as we would have liked to provide because experts of the kind required are in great demand in this country. Some of them have had to make considerable sacrifices to take part in this important U.N. work. The training of experts, in the last analysis, is just about as important as supplying capital assistance, because eventually this kind of work has to be done by these people in their own countries. When we can get them to come here and learn our technical methods and send them back to do the work themselves, that is the kind of help that really matters.

In conclusion I would like to express my agreement with the spirit and indeed the content of this resolution, and to emphasize that we are doing something to carry out the advice contained in it, I also express the hope that it will commend itself to all hon. members in this House because, as has been said more than once, the war on want and backwardness, on deprivation and distress, is a road to peace.

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