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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION YEAR

Text of Statement to be made in the Plenary Session of the General Assembly by the Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mr. George Ignatieff, on Item 24, International Cooperation Year, on December 7, 1966.

Canada was a co-sponsor of the original resolution adopted by the General Assembly in 1962 which endorsed the idea of devoting a year to the promotion of international co-operation and established a preparatory committee to study the inherent possibilities. Canada participated in the committee which was appointed to draw up plans for International Co-operation Year and my predecessor, Mr. Paul Tremblay, served for a time as Chairman of that Committee. It is, therefore, a great pleasure for my delegation to join in sponsoring the draft resolution contained in Document A/L.504.

This resolution closes the books on a constructive attempt to focus attention on the many continuing activities of international co-operation which go on day by day, year by year, without fanfare. It was entirely appropriate that we should take time to remind ourselves of what has already been achieved through international co-operative endeavours. It was also valuable to try to strengthen those activities and to create a better climate for effective international co-operation in the future.

It was the Canadian belief that the designation of a year for international co-operation would enable individuals and groups in Canada and elsewhere who were engaged in co-operative activities with similar individuals and groups in other countries, to gain increasing recognition and public support for their work. While conscious of its significance for governments, we were attracted by the opportunity it would offer to men and women the world over to participate personally in direct co-operative undertakings across national frontiers.

Viewed in isolation, each single act of co-operation which was generated by International Co-operation Year possessed an intrinsic value for the participating individuals or organizations. But, more importantly, viewed as a whole,