

External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

No. 53/32 Continuation on a Permanent Basis of
the United Nations International
Children's Emergency Fund

Statement by Mr. Alcide Cote, M.P., made on October 6, 1953, in a plenary meeting of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly. (Agenda Item 29)

In the view of the Canadian delegation, the question now before the General Assembly is of great importance. It is a question to which my country attaches particular significance. In fact, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund constitutes one of the greatest achievements of the United Nations. First of all, this initiative has received the almost unanimous support of the Members, and this unanimity testifies not only to the need of the United Nations as such, but also testifies to the practical and concrete role it can play.

From the list of contributing governments, we can see that in this project the number of contributors grows in number every year. We can also see the way in which the beneficiary countries contributed in services or in kind to the work of the Fund in their country, and this has established itself as an efficient practice because the counterpart fund of the beneficiary countries has grown and increased the assistance given by the Fund. We believe this is one of the important principles which lay at the basis of the efficient functioning of the Fund, one which will ensure the continuity of the programmes when the Fund is no longer able to execute them. It is also possible to see the human solidarity contained in such an effort.

In reading the last report of the Economic and Social Council dealing with the various services of the Fund, we could not help being impressed by the scope and the efficiency of the programme. It would take too much time to enumerate the countries which benefited from the Fund, especially the under-developed countries, which received assistance in various forms, thanks to the long-term programme which has been drawn up by UNICEF.

All countries of the world, without distinction as to race colour and creed are to be found in this list which establishes the universal scope and importance of the Fund. The immediate beneficiaries of this assistance are those who are closest to us; the children. They are the ones who will build for us the world of tomorrow. We as a delegation see in this initiative, in this project, one which might best establish a better balance between countries. Those who receive assistance from the United Nations today -- and this covers about 60 million people --