

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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PRESS RELEASE NO. 85

December 9, 1966

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750 Third Avenue  
New York 17, N.Y.  
YUkon 6-5740

United Nations Organization for  
Industrial Development

Text of Statement to be made by the Representative of  
Canada, Mr. Donald S. Macdonald, M.P., Parliamentary  
Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs,  
in the Second Committee, on Item 41, United Nations  
Organization for Industrial Development, on  
December 9, 1966

We have heard a number of delegations suggest that this session of the General Assembly should take a decision on the site of the headquarters of the new United Nations Organization for Industrial Development. We have listened with interest to the reasons advanced for this suggestion, but we remain convinced that it would be better to request the Secretary-General to gather all necessary information about the sites offered and to ask the first session of the Industrial Development Board to consider the question and to make recommendations to the next session of the General Assembly.

Canada is concerned to see that the site of the headquarters of UNIDO is selected on the grounds of where the new organization will probably achieve maximum efficiency. When we come to decide on the site of the headquarters, our only concern should be what is best for the Organization itself, what site will enable it to assist the developing countries in the most effective way possible. If the important question of selecting the site of the headquarters of UNIDO is hastily settled without an objective review of all relevant considerations, the fledgling Organization will not have had a very auspicious beginning. The consideration of this question should be measured and objective. In our view, it would be highly undesirable for the site of the headquarters of UNIDO to be selected in an atmosphere of political overtones. If, on the contrary, the Organization is launched in an atmosphere of calm deliberation, its prestige will be enhanced. We are all aware of the enormous administrative and technical difficulties which are inherent in constituting any new international organization. We would only compound those difficulties by taking a hasty or ill-considered decision about the site of the headquarters of UNIDO. It would be an irony if the institution, intended in part to promote that careful planning which is an essential component of industrial development, should itself be launched without the accumulation of the facts necessary for decision or their proper assessment.