

No. 153/70 SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS

Text of a statement delivered on October 21, 1953, by Mr. S.D. Hemsley, Canadian Representative, in the Fifth Committee of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, dealing with agenda item 42 - Scale of Assessments.

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

"The General Assembly"

In the excellent and invaluable report of the Contributions Committee to the eighth General Assembly which is the basis of the present debate, the Committee has continued its policy for the progressive removal of maladjustment in the United Nations scale, and in doing so has applied various directives contained in last year's Resolution No. 665 (VII).

While in our view their recommendations represent important improvements in previous scales and are useful steps toward development of more equitable assessments which may ultimately provide the basis for a more permanent scale, nevertheless we recognize that further improvements are possible for the future.

We are glad, therefore, to see that the scale now proposed is for one year only. We further note and accept the comments of the Committee set out in paragraph 15 of their report which is, we feel, an acceptable interpretation of the Canadian position since it defers immediate implementation of the per capita principle, while recognizing that the Contributions Committee is expected to take appropriate action as soon as the criteria set out in Resolution 665 (VII) are met. These are quoted in paragraph 5 of the report before us.

Delegates will recall last year's discussion in which the Canadian representative repeated the importance which his government attaches to the per capita principle, but in which he also agreed that further implementation should be deferred until "new members are admitted or a substantial improvement in the economic capacity of existing members permits adjustments to be gradually absorbed in the scale".

The Committee will also recall that an amendment co-sponsored by Egypt and Canada embodying these principles directed the Committee of Contributions at the same time to continue to observe the instructions laid down in General Assembly Resolution 582 (VI) which calls for special consideration to be given to countries with low per capita income. I think this may be accepted fairly as evidence of a genuine desire on Canada's part to avoid shifting financial burdens to countries less able to pay (while, nevertheless, maintaining intact the per