



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

FOURTH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONFERENCE

Text of a statement given on November 12, 1953, by the Canadian Representative at the Fourth Technical Assistance Conference, Senator S.S. McKeen, held at United Nations Headquarters, New York.

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I am happy to speak for Canada at this Fourth Technical Assistance Conference, during which we hope to secure the financial support necessary to assure the continuance of technical assistance during the year 1954 as a truly expanded programme.

I am sure that we all agree that the war on want is the road to peace. The United Nations Technical Assistance Programme, by helping to improve standards of living and thus increasing the sense of security and brotherhood among the peoples of the world, is a considerable factor in the building of firm foundations for world peace. In another way, too, it helps in achieving this same purpose. We all know that changes in methods of production, in industrial technology and so on, are likely to hurt someone, even though in the long run the great majority may benefit from them. Our technical assistance programme, by providing training and guidance where they may be most needed, can facilitate adjustment to the new ways and reduce to a minimum the temporarily harmful effects of too rapid industrial change. It is of course in the nature of a pilot plant - an experiment, but so far a successful one; successful not least because all countries can contribute something useful to others. In fact, and from a selfish point of view, though we do not expect to be the direct recipient of technical assistance ourselves, we are sure that we, like others, shall share in the benefits of the programme as a whole.

For these reasons the Canadian Government strongly supports the principle of technical assistance, and has contributed financially both to the Commonwealth scheme of technical assistance which is part of the Colombo Plan, and to the three previous United Nations programmes. As we have heard from the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board and the Director-General of the Technical Assistance Administration, this fourth financial period marks a critical stage in the history of the programme. Now that our pilot plant has shown its worth, the requests for assistance have begun to outrun the resources available, and it is to be hoped that contributions received from the 1954 financial period will enable the programme to be continued at a useful level. Last year the Canadian Government contribution was \$1,000,000 which has all been paid in. I am pleased to announce on behalf of the Canadian Government, Mr. President, that it is prepared, subject to Parliamentary approval, to raise its contribution to the 1954 programme to a maximum of one million five hundred thousand dollars provided that the support from other contributors in our view warrants such action, and provided that the total of contributions is efficient to keep the programme at a level which we regard as economically sound. Should either of these conditions not be fulfilled, the Canadian contribution would be adjusted accordingly.
