

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SEVENTEENTH SESSION

RELEASE ON DELIVERY

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STATEMENT MADE BY THE CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE
ON THE FIFTH COMMITTEE ON NOVEMBER 19, 1962,
DURING DEBATE ON PERSONNEL QUESTIONS:
ITEMS 70(A) AND (B)

Most of us here are quite familiar with the questions of geographical distribution of the staff of the Secretariat and the proportion of fixed term staff. These are two old acquaintances and we have come to regard them as almost regular items on our agenda. This is understandable since both these questions are of concern to all delegations and since it is continually necessary to strike a balance between the legitimate desires of member states to achieve a wide geographical distribution of staff, against the concern of members to ensure that the United Nations Secretariat is as efficient as we would all like it to be.

The Canadian Delegation looks forward each year to the Secretary-General's report on these subjects and to our discussion of them, since we believe that the Fifth Committee should take a continuing interest in these matters. It is clear that at one time there was a considerable imbalance in the geographical distribution of staff. However, each year has seen a progressive improvement in the situation. Delegations need only look at pages 3 and 4 of Document A/5270 and page 2 of Document A/C.5/933 to see just how significant this improvement has been. We should also remember that this steady trend towards a more equitable distribution and towards a better balance between fixed term and career staff are primarily the result of three things. First, conscientious and continuing efforts by the Secretary-General on our behalf; second, provision of comments and guidance by the General Assembly on the need for and methods of improvement; and third, recognition by most Member States that it is essential to follow correct administrative proce-