

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT NO. 100

December 5, 1967

Text of statement made in the Fifth Committee by the Canadian Representative, Mr. Sidney Freifeld on Part V of the 1968 Budget Estimates (Item 74).

The views of my delegation on the subject matter of the draft resolution contained in document A/6874/Add.1 are already well known and I do not, therefore, propose to take up the time of this Committee with a full reiteration of our position. The Canadian delegations to the first session of the Industrial Development Board and to the Forty-third Session of the Economic and Social Council have already explained our reasons for opposing the introduction into section V of the regular budget of a specific allocation for industrial development. On October 26 the Canadian representative in the Second Committee re-stated our position during consideration of the draft resolution which is now before us. I wish this morning, therefore, only to summarize the arguments which my delegation has put forward for opposing this draft resolution.

In our view the establishment of a separate allocation in Part V of the budget for industrial development would be to introduce new rigidities into the regular programme of technical assistance just three years after the Economic and Social Council decided that the number of sections in Part V of the regular budget should be reduced from five to three. The Council took this action in recognition of the fact that the majority of states preferred a system whereby Part V funds would be spent on the basis of priorities assigned by recipient countries rather than by fixing in advance specific amounts to be expended on particular programmes. To establish a separate allocation for industrial development assistance would be to take a step back towards the earlier unsatisfactory system and to encourage further fragmentation of Part V of the budget. In the end, the main purposes of the fund, which are to meet urgent requests for assistance from developing countries and requests for assistance in areas which are not adequately covered by the voluntary programmes, might well be curtailed.

If a separate section for industrial development were established, this would mean that funds would be frozen in the budget for industrial development projects. In the event that all of the funds allocated to this section were not spent in any given year, the funds would not then be available for other technical assistance activities. The draft resolution would, therefore, cause unfortunate inflexibility in the use of technical assistance funds.