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Statement by Mr. Gordon Aiken, Q.C., M.P.,  
Canadian Representative on the Second  
Committee on Friday, October 27, 1961.

Mr. Chairman,

As this is the first occasion on which I have addressed this Committee, permit me to add my congratulations to those already extended to yourself and to the Vice-Chairman, Dr. Mahdavi, and to the Rapporteur, Mr. Rego Monteiro. You have already indicated your ability to give leadership to the Committee, and in order to assist in your expressed desire to proceed expeditiously with the work of the Committee, I do not propose to make a lengthy statement today.

There is no question that much has been accomplished by the United Nations and its organs in the field under discussion and Canada is proud of the contribution it has been able to make. And yet we feel that there is much more to be accomplished. If, in this intervention, I should make reference to what has been done, both by my country and by the United Nations Organization, it is not to suggest that we should rest on our oars, nor to express self-satisfaction, but for the purpose of taking stock of our position, and determining the direction in which we should go.

It has been amply demonstrated in this debate that member nations are gravely concerned with problems of international commodity trade. My own country is heavily dependent on exports of basic materials and foodstuffs. We are therefore fully alive to the urgent need to reverse the downward drift of commodity export prices. In our view, the best hope of solving these problems lies in a commodity-by-commodity approach leading ultimately to a comprehensive series of international commodity agreements. It goes without saying that such agreements, to be beneficial and effective, must necessarily include the major