

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories

The extent to which Canadian facilities have been made available to foreign students and steps taken by Canada to provide scholarship and other assistance to students from other countries were outlined by Mr. Heath Macquarrie, M.P., in the Fourth Committee, November 27, 1959, during a consideration of UN activities in respect of non-self-governing areas.

Mr. Macquarrie's statement follows:

When, in the course of the discussion on the report of the Trusteeship Council, I associated my Delegation with the emphasis in the Council's report on the importance of increasing educational opportunities for the inhabitants of trust territories, I stated that Canada offers educational assistance in a broad context rather than through programmes specifically directed to the inhabitants of trust territories or to the non-self-governing areas which we are considering at present. Canada shares with the other delegations assembled around this table a great concern and an intense interest in the difficulties facing all under-developed areas in the rapid training of indigenous peoples to occupy senior administrative, technical and juridical posts. Indeed we look upon this whole problem as one of major significance and importance and we are desirous of making our maximum contribution to its solution.

We like to think that the particular interest which my country, and I as its representative to this Committee, have in this question is derived mainly from the responsibility which Canada, as a nation richly gifted in natural wealth, feels towards under-developed countries. We like to see in our efforts in this regard not only a question of assistance but also a question of increased co-operation in the field of education generally. My country is interested not solely in providing technical assistance but also in helping developing countries meet the ever-increasing need for people equipped with the general training to serve in the elaborate and varied processes of a complex society.

There is yet another aspect to this whole question which I find quite appealing and regard as highly significant. It is this — that any form of educational assistance which brings young men and women from every part of the world to our country gives Canadians an increased knowledge and understanding of the wider problems and aspirations of the indigenous people of those lands. Plans for scholarships and fellowships not only give to scholars from other countries an opportunity to acquire training and knowledge in Canadian institutions but also imply an element of reciprocity through which selected young men and women from every part of the world gain a better understanding of the life, culture and institutions of other countries. But may I say . . . that Canadians too benefit by these arrangements no less than the smaller and newer countries. Through contacts with the young foreign scholars who come to Canada, our own young people are able to increase their knowledge and appreciation of the wider world and thereby enrich their understanding of their own land.