

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(SIXTEENTH SESSION)

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Statement by Mr. Gordon Aiken, Canadian
Representative at the 1961 United Nations Pledging
Conference for the Expanded Programme of Technical
Assistance and the Special Fund, October 17, 1961.

Mr. President:

Since the founding of this Organization, the Government of Canada has consistently attached the greatest importance to the role which economic and technical assistance can and does play in today's changing world. My Government continues to believe that all the resources available for economic assistance should be mobilized rapidly and effectively, and where possible increased, to meet the challenge with which we are most urgently confronted - that of reinforcing through international cooperation the endeavours of the developing countries to advance the economic and social development of their peoples.

Last year the dramatic increase in the membership of the UN brought home with renewed urgency the need to strengthen our efforts - to maintain unimpaired the existing programmes, and to increase the work of technical cooperation in countries newly arrived as sovereign nations upon the international scene. My Government has, to cite only one example, recently inaugurated a new technical assistance programme for the French speaking African states, with whom we share a common language, to supplement our existing programmes for South and South East Asia, Commonwealth Africa and the West Indies.

In accordance with our belief that the work of the United Nations in the field of economic and social development would also have to be substantially strengthened in the years to come, we supported the resolution of the Fifteenth Session of the General Assembly which raised the combined target of the Expanded Programme for Technical Assistance and the Special Fund to \$150 million. In the view of my Government these two voluntary programmes, ably and imaginatively administered by the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board and the Managing Director of the Special Fund, provide one of the most effective forms of economic assistance yet devised.

Therefore, Mr. President, I have been authorized to inform you that, subject to Parliamentary approval, the Canadian Government will again pledge for the fiscal year 1962-63 the sum of four and one-half million dollars for the two programmes combined. Once again we propose to contribute \$2.35 million to the Special Fund and \$2.15 million to the Expanded Programme for Technical Assistance. It is our earnest hope that, with all countries pledging an appropriate share, the target of \$150,000,000 will be speedily attained.