

No. 53/35 EXPANDED PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Text of a statement given on October 8, 1953, by the Canadian representative on the Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, Senator S.S. McKeen. Agenda item 27.

I wish to speak briefly in order to introduce to the Committee the resolution on the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance which has been co-sponsored by my delegation.

The resolution set out in Document A/C2/L.197 substantially adopts the recommendations put forward by the Economic and Social Council, which had two principal purposes: first, to urge the continuance of the Technical Assistance Programme on at least the same level as 1953, and second, to initiate a review of procedures in order to ensure the best use of available resources.

When the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance was examined and discussed in some detail at the sixteenth session of the Council, considerable attention was devoted to the need for a scrutiny of general financial procedures and of administrative or indirect operational costs. The general debate which has just been concluded has given us further valuable information and comments regarding the way in which the Technical Assistance Programme works and also the way in which it could perhaps, at certain points, be made to work better. My delegation welcomes the assurance given by the Executive Chairman of the TAB that the Committee's discussion of these points will be taken into account in the review of procedures which is at present underway, and that every effort will be made by all concerned to ensure that the largest possible proportion of available resources may be devoted to operational work rather than administrative or related costs.

We have heard from the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board that, owing to uncertainties of financing, it has been necessary to slow down operations in the last part of 1953 and to go on cautiously in planning for the first six months of 1954. Many delegations have indicated the adverse effects that these cuts will have on their own country's programmes. The Canadian Delegation, and I am sure many others, greatly regrets that it should have been necessary to drop or postpone any useful projects. As has been pointed out, these difficulties arise partly from the fact that many contributing governments are precluded by their constitutional procedures from pledging contributions on more than a yearly basis. It is encouraging to have heard from the Delegate of Indonesia that his government is prepared to pledge its support for the programme