

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT

PRESS RELEASE No. 91

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY

December 14, 1966.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Press Office
750 Third Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10017
YUkon 6-5740

WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION

Text of statement made in the Third Committee
by the Canadian Representative, Professor R.
St. J. Macdonald on item 54 (World Social
Situation) on Wednesday, December 14, 1966

Madam Chairman, I will confine my remarks at this time to those questions of social development which are referred to in Chapter X, Section I of the Economic and Social Council Report before us.

Madam Chairman, it has been said time and again that social development should go in tandem with economic development. No one would deny the importance of this relationship. We have come to learn, however, that social development, in the sense of increasing levels-of-living for all persons in a society, is not necessarily the evenly-distributed result of economic development. Indeed the very processes of change involved in economic advance often work against the fundamental social objective of raising the levels of living for significant groups in the population. We have also come to realize that programmes of social development, in addition to their own intrinsic worth, are often pre-requisites to stable economic growth. For these reasons, we strongly support the actions taken by the 41st Session of ECOSOC to strengthen the Commission for Social Development, to publicize the findings of the 1965 Report on the World Social Situation, and to move ahead with certain new undertakings in the social field.

It is not our intention to consider each of these items in any detail because Canada's views have been recorded elsewhere. It may be useful nonetheless to indicate the relationship which we believe exists between these various topics - to indicate the ways in which we think the actions taken by the Council at its recent session will strengthen its capacity to develop meaningful social policies that will assist member states in a practical way.

The most significant change is, of course, the renewed mandate given to the Commission for Social Development. In our opinion, the consensus to update the objectives, methods and work programme of the