

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

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Statement by Mrs. H.H. Steen, Canadian Representative
on the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural)
Committee, on Friday, October 14, 1960

Teaching of the Purposes and Principles,
the Structure and Activities of the United Nations and
its Related Agencies

Mr. Chairman:

I shall reserve my remarks on the Report of the Economic and Social Council for another time.

I have asked for the floor now because I wish to join with the other co-sponsors in introducing the draft resolution on the "Teaching of the Purposes and Principles, the Structure and Activities of the United Nations and its Related Agencies".

As this is my first intervention in this Committee, I wish to begin by adding my Delegation's congratulations to you on your election to the Chairmanship of this Committee. With your permission, I should also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the distinguished delegates of Afghanistan and New Zealand who have been elected to support you in the difficult task of guiding and recording our deliberations. If I may, I should also like to associate my delegation with all the warm words of welcome which have been expressed to the new members of our Committee.

Mr. Chairman, my Delegation was particularly pleased in reading the Report of the Economic and Social Council to learn of the progress that has been made in the teaching of the work of the United Nations and what it stands for, as brought out in detail in ECOSOC documents E/3322 and Addenda 1 to 3 prepared by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of UNESCO. The evidence that public interest in the United Nations has grown considerably in recent years and that teaching about the subject has been expanded and improved in many countries is indeed encouraging.

I wish to say immediately that the Canadian Delegation shares the Council's belief in the importance of teaching about the United Nations and its related agencies as expressed in Resolution 748 which ECOSOC unanimously adopted at its 29th Session. Each country has, of course, somewhat different constitutional and educational machinery with which to deal, and in Canada where education is the responsibility of the provincial governments, the Government of Canada promotes the teaching and understanding of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies through the encouragement of the interested voluntary organizations rather than by direct government action. Each year therefore the Canadian Government makes a financial grant to the United Nations Association in Canada to assist it in its task of informing the public of the purposes, principles and work of the United Nations generally. As this organization is the main, indeed the central one of its kind in Canada, the Canadian Government also maintains liaison with it in its many educational and information activities, often collaborating with it on occasions, such as