

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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STATEMENT BY
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REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA

GENERAL DEBATE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Second Committee

Mr. Chairman,

The Prime Minister of Canada, when he spoke before the General Assembly a few weeks ago, suggested that "second only to the keeping of peace, the great purpose of international statesmanship today must be to improve the living standards of the world's peoples. The role of the United Nations in this field is necessarily limited, but if we wish, it can be one of great and lasting significance". There is not a single country here which can be complacent about current world economic conditions, particularly in the developing countries. You may rest assured that there is no complacency in my country. Canada is very conscious of the need to press forward in the joint endeavour to fulfil the vision of a United Nations Development Decade. We attach the highest priority to the problems of international trade and economic assistance.

A vast improvement of living standards and economic conditions in the developing countries -- the vision of the Development Decade -- is the great task of our day. It will involve difficult decisions for the developing countries and sacrifices by the wealthier countries. I am convinced, however, that today there is a new awareness of the challenge and a new readiness to meet it.

There is one point which I should like to make, not only as the representative of Canada, but as a Trade Union officer in my country. Economic development, like peace, is indivisible and its benefits must be shared by all. It is not enough -- important as they are -- to press for