



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS IN THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement by Mr. Theogene Richard, M.P., Canadian Representative on the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee of the United Nations, October 9, 1957.

The Canadian Delegation has decided to participate in this debate because it has seemed to us desirable to present a general point of view which is relevant to most of the subjects covered by the report of the Economic and Social Council.

My delegation considers that there are grave errors in both of the extreme positions which are sometimes taken regarding the usefulness and importance of the United Nations. Some people, and indeed some governments, have tended to view the United Nations as an organization to which all difficulties should be referred and through which all problems can be solved. Such an attitude, it seems to us, leads almost inevitably to disillusionment and bitterness. We must recognize that there are several limitations on what the United Nations can and should try to accomplish in the various fields with which it deals. This is particularly true--if I may say so--of action in the economic and financial field which is the concern of this committee.

On the other hand, many individuals and some governments appear to believe that the United Nations is of little or no value because it has failed to do everything they hoped it could, or has been unable to contribute much to a particular problem at a particular time.

My delegation believes that there is a constructive middle position between these extremes. The records of this committee and of ECOSOC show that the United Nations can certainly achieve useful results, if earnest efforts are made to work out decisions which are practicable, which are generally acceptable among member governments, and which are likely to be widely supported by public opinion.

I hope that the members of this committee will bear with me while I discuss three of the questions before us, from what I should like to describe as this constructively realistic