

[PIÈCE JOINTE/ENCLOSURE]

*Note**Memorandum*INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CANADIAN DELEGATION
TO THE 26TH SESSION OF ECOSOC

When toward the end of the war the task was taken up of creating the United Nations as an instrument of world order, it was realized that the United Nations should provide for political stability and security but for economic and social needs as well. The years between the wars had brought home the increasing complexity of economic interrelations and the need for international machinery that could deal with them. In addition there were the problems of reconstruction and stabilization to be faced at the close of the war. It was visualized that for the most part these needs and problems would be met by functional bodies operating within specific fields. Some such bodies, for example the Universal Postal Union and the International Labour Organization, had come into existence earlier and had already proven their worth in peace time. Others such as the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund had been created during the war to anticipate the post-war situation. There was, however, the need for a body with a status comparable in some respects to that of the Security Council, to operate over the whole field of economic and social policy and to be responsible to the General Assembly for co-ordinating the work of the more specialized organs. Provision was therefore made in the Charter for the Economic and Social Council, to consist of 18 members elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms, and to consider and make recommendations to the General Assembly on international economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related matters and on the promotion of respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

2. In the years since its establishment ECOSOC has been faced by the fundamental fact of a sharp contrast between social and economic situations of the advanced and the under-developed countries and the vital bearing of this fact on the prospects for world peace and prosperity. Many of those under-developed countries which emerged at the end of the war or since from colonial control have brought an aroused nationalism and emotional anti-colonialism to heighten the divisions which have appeared between the advanced and the under-developed countries notwithstanding the strong common interest in rising productivity, increased purchasing power and elimination of barriers to the free flow of goods and capital. The split between the Soviet bloc and the free democracies of the West which has dominated the political field has added greatly to the long-range political and economic significance of such divisions.

3. Canada made a substantial contribution to the establishment of the Economic and Social Council and was one of the 18 countries initially elected to membership in 1946. In the years that have followed Canada has served two further terms on the Council. We will complete our present term at the end of 1958.

4. While giving full recognition to the essential role of the Council in the developing and increasingly complex pattern of international economic and social relationships, Canadian policy in ECOSOC has followed pragmatic lines, emphasizing the need to contain the Council's activities within the resources of funds and personnel available, the need for selection with a careful eye to the practical results to be expected, and the predominant role of the Council as a co-ordinating agency. We have aimed at improving relations between