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External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

No. 60/13 Trade and the Under-Developed Countries

Statement by Mr. W.A. Irwin, Canadian Representative
on the Second Committee, during the General Debate
(Item XXIX) on October 27, 1960.

... In the opinion of the Canadian Delegation, current international political difficulties must not be allowed to prevent the United Nations from achieving useful results of a practical nature designed to promote the economic development of less-developed countries. As Prime Minister Macmillan of the United Kingdom stated in his intervention in the general debate in plenary: "We must develop the general recognition that the interest of all is the interest of each, that the whole world must grow and expand together, that nations cannot live or succeed in isolation."

In this connection I was particularly struck by the comments of the distinguished representative of Sudan in this Committee on October 14, when he called for the expansion of existing United Nations facilities for promoting international co-operation and consultation. My country has always supported measures designed to give substance to the economic interdependence of today's world and it will continue to do so.

During this session of the General Assembly, all delegations will surely agree that urgent consideration should be given to the problems of the newly-independent countries and particularly those of Africa. Canada already has indicated its willingness to contribute to a Commonwealth programme of economic aid to the countries of Africa with which we are associated in the Commonwealth. Largely because of the increasing responsibilities of United Nations programmes in Africa, we have increased this year our contribution to both the United Nations Special Fund and the Expanded Programme for Technical Assistance. We shall also be taking a sympathetic attitude toward the proposals of the Secretary-General for an increased allocation under the United Nations budget for special programmes of assistance, many of them to be conducted in the newly-independent states of Africa. I mention these facts not in any spirit of self-commendation, but as evidence of Canada's willingness to join other countries in meeting the new and special demands which the United Nations faces as the countries of Africa join the international community.

Trade and Commodity Problems

... I now turn to a consideration of the trade aspects of the development problems confronting less-developed areas of the world. It seems scarcely necessary to emphasize once again in this forum that the processes of international trade -- and particularly of international trade relating to commodities -- are of the utmost interest and importance to Canada. Ours is a trading