

ties; Canada and other countries have been urging a commodity-by-commodity approach to these problems and have supported and participated in a number of commodity arrangements to achieve more stability in trade in certain commodities such as wheat, sugar and tin. The discussion at the 24th session of ECOSOC is likely to be largely concerned with the international machinery for dealing with commodity problems. It is hard to tell whether differences in views regarding this machinery will, in fact, give rise to serious difficulties; in any event, the Delegation has been asked to give general support for a continuation of the *status quo* among the bodies chiefly concerned.

8. It is recommended²⁶

1. That the Canadian Delegation be approved as constituted.
2. That the instructions be approved as described above.
3. That the Delegation seek to play a useful role in discussions of the economic and social work of the United Nations but reserve its position or, if time allows, refer to Ottawa for instructions on matters specifically involving Canadian economic and social policies.

J.G. DIEFENBAKER

33.

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Rapport final

Final Report

CONFIDENTIAL. CANADIAN EYES ONLY.

[Geneva, n.d.]

INTERNATIONAL IMPATIENCE

A GENERAL ANALYSIS

Perhaps the most striking characteristic of the 24th Session of ECOSOC was that of impatience on the part of under-developed countries. There appeared to be growing resentment on their part against the efforts of more favoured member nations to keep demands in ECOSOC within what they regarded as reasonable limits. Delegations from under-developed countries also appeared to be getting increasingly suspicious that ECOSOC's procedures for co-ordination of economic and social programmes were being exploited by more favoured member nations to restrict or prevent legitimate ECOSOC activities. In the Technical Assistance Committee, there was obvious dissatisfaction because of the difficulties involved in spreading limited resources over a wider geographical area as a result of additional countries becoming independent. In the Economic Committee, the Poles and Yugoslavs sometimes lost patience with the slowness of the Council in adopting measures designed to promote closer economic relations between East and West. The Brazilian Delegation wanted to revise completely the charters of the IBRD and the IMF which it considers as having failed to provide the necessary help to the less developed countries.

The major indication of impatience, however, arose over the item — A Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development. After very little debate the under-developed countries led by the Netherlands introduced a resolution for the establishment of this fund. Refusing to accept any compromise, they pressed this resolution to a vote over the direct and firm opposition of the USA, the UK and Canada. As one delegate said, "We have

²⁶ Approuvé par le Cabinet le 11 juillet 1957.

Approved by Cabinet on July 11, 1957.