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CANADA AND UNESCO

An address by Dr. N.A.M. MacKenzie, Chairman of the Canadian National Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and Chairman of the Canadian Delegation, to the tenth session of the General Conference of UNESCO in Paris, on October 8, 1958.

I am happy to join with others in thanks and congratulations to France who is this year our host and in whose fair land the permanent headquarters of The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is now established in new and interesting buildings. We all know that these buildings in this beautiful city have been made possible by the generous attitude and the practical help of the French Government and the French people. For this we are grateful, though not surprised, for France has traditionally been "a mother of the arts", and what she has done, and is now doing, for us is very much a part of that tradition. I, myself, remember 33 years ago when, as a young member of the staff of the International Labour Office in Geneva, I had occasion to attend what was our precursor, the Committee for Intellectual Co-operation of the League of Nations. Some of you will also remember that France provided, here in Paris, the physical headquarters of the Institute for Intellectual Co-operation.

This is the first time that I have had the pleasure and the honour of being present at a meeting of UNESCO, but I have been interested in its work ever since its inception. In fact, in September 1943, as a representative of the Government of Canada, I attended a conference near Washington, D.C. to discuss with the representatives of other countries possible programmes which were later to become the responsibilities of UNESCO, and I have followed the activities and developments of this body ever since. This because of my growing conviction, which has been strengthened by my experiences during the past two or three days, that human beings are, and fortunately will continue to be, very different from each other. The only methods that I know of getting them to work together for their general good and for the solution