

With respect to the draft amendment proposed by the representative of Syria, while we sympathize with his desire to avoid, under the cover of technical assistance, interference in the domestic affairs of certain states, it seems to us that its actual wording would not help to meet the intended purpose. As it stands now, the amendment is open to other possible interpretations which might well defeat the very thing which the Syrian representative has in mind. At any rate, we are rather doubtful as to the necessity and the effectiveness of the Syrian amendment and we will have to vote against it.

In the draft amendment of Guatemala, the introduction of development of economic potentialities makes its acceptance impossible, as this would clearly come under other existing projects.

The Canadian Delegation has, of course, given careful consideration to the body of the draft resolution proposed by the representatives of Ecuador, Haiti, India, Lebanon, Liberia, and the Philippines. We are, of course, in agreement with the principles. However, we share the opinion expressed by other delegations as to whether the Secretary-General will receive many requests from member states for technical assistance in this field, and so we agree that the door should be kept open to meet any such requests from interested governments. We feel somewhat unhappy, though, as to the wording of the draft resolution where it refers to eradication of prejudice. Prejudice against what? These words could easily be given all sorts of interpretations, some in line with what the resolution has in mind, and some very different. Moreover, this seems to bring a somewhat new object of concern to the United Nations. Over the years we have discussed prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities; but the eradication of prejudice opens up a new issue, and we are not at all sure where this would lead. You will remember that the resolution of the General Assembly, 532 B (VI) of 4th of February 1952, invited the Economic and Social Council to:

"authorize the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination, and Protection of Minorities, to continue its work so that it may fulfil its mission, and especially to convene a session in 1952; and

"to take any practical steps that may be necessary for the continuance, within the framework of the United Nations, of the work on prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities."

There was no mention made of prejudice in the General Assembly resolution, and we think that the reference to prejudice in the draft resolution now before us would be better removed.

The Canadian Delegation would like to keep to the well defined expressions, which have a precise meaning in which the United Nations traditionally has been interested rather than to introduce a new concept. At this stage I do not intend to propose an amendment, but if it could make the draft resolution acceptable to more delegations I would be prepared to make such an amendment.