



## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
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Statement made at the tenth session of the United Nations General Assembly by Mrs. J. Houck, Canadian representative in the Third Committee.

During this discussion many favourable comments have been made on the useful and important work done by the Economic and Social Council and its Commissions during the past twelve months in the social and human rights fields. My delegation believes that these tributes are well deserved and we wish therefore to add our own word of approval to those which have already been expressed. As you know, Canada was among those countries which were recently elected to membership in the Council for a three year term starting next year. We look forward with pleasure to resuming our earlier responsibilities as a member of the Council, and we hope that in due course we shall be able to make a contribution to the solution of some, at least, of the problems with which the Council continues to be faced.

With reference to Chapters V and VI of the Council's most recent report, I should like first of all to say a few words about the section dealing with the world social situation. A review of the preliminary report of 1952 on this subject is still rewarding, particularly in conjunction with the more recent International Survey of Programmes of Social Development. These programmes, by showing what a community can do through its own efforts, encourage us to believe that the right course is being followed. This experience is a reminder to us all that it is never possible to bring about social development by governmental action alone. The structure, if it is to last, must be built on a firm basis in the community with direct and voluntary participation of the people themselves.

It is a further source of satisfaction to us to know that there has been a growing recognition of the principle that social development and economic development are related - that they are, as it were, two sides of the same coin. In our view it is essential that consideration should continue to be given to the social impact of programmes of economic development. If we are not to build slums and reap the consequent harvest of social and spiritual degradation, we must look at the problem as a whole - in its economic, social, educational and cultural aspects. Above all, when we are discussing social programmes in this Committee and in other United Nations bodies, we must constantly bear in mind that they are only one part of the general pattern of human development.

There is a tendency which we Canadians share perhaps with other people - to assume that our way of doing things is the way of others. It is not an unnatural assumption and one which is, perhaps, not restricted to North American