

However, as I indicated at the beginning, we are mindful of the difficult task the Committee on Contributions has to perform. We are also aware of the serious problems that would arise if this Committee attempted to formulate a new scale. Therefore, in a spirit of cooperation, and to expedite the work of the Fifth Committee, the Canadian Delegation will vote for the scale recommended for 1955 on the understanding that this Assembly reaffirms the seventh assembly's decision on the per capita principle and the eighth assembly's interpretation of this decision, and instructs the Committee on Contributions to return the Canadian assessment to the 1953 level of 3.3 per cent in 1956. It is the belief of my delegation that this can be achieved without affecting the contributions of most member states by removing the anomalies that still exist in the scale. This will mean that the Committee on Contributions will return to the interpretation it adopted in preparing the 1954 scale. The percentage contributions of those members subject to the per capita principle will be frozen against further upward movement until per capita parity is established with the highest contributor. At the same time, downward adjustments will only occur when the conditions cited in Resolution 665(VII) have been fulfilled or when changes in relative national income warrant a lower assessment. My delegation has submitted a draft resolution which would achieve these ends.

In conclusion, I should like to stress that these objections to part of the Report of the Contributions Committee are not based on financial considerations alone. Canada has always paid a full and fair share of the expenses of the United Nations. Our voluntary contributions to the relief, rehabilitation and economic assistance programmes established by the General Assembly are evidence of this. To date, Canada has contributed nearly \$209 million to these special programmes. Included in this amount is approximately \$9 million to the Children's Fund, \$7.2 million to Korean Reconstruction, \$3.7 million to Palestine Refugees and \$4 million to Technical Assistance. Canada's contribution to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance for 1954 was increased by \$700,000 or 87 per cent. From the Programme's inception in 1951 to 1954, Canada's share of the total contribution has increased from 3.9 per cent to 5.9 per cent. This enlargement of the Canadian share has taken place at a time when the total number of contributing states and total contributions have substantially increased. At the present time Canada is contributing a larger percentage of its national income to this important programme than most of the other large contributors.

To be perfectly frank my Government takes a most serious view of the Contributions Committee's recommendations. We have fully met our financial and other obligations to the United Nations and we shall continue to do so. We believe, however, that we would be imposed upon if our contribution were permanently increased for reasons that are demonstrably unsound.

These are all the observations my delegation wishes to put forward at this stage of the debate. We of course reserve our right to intervene later should the occasion warrant it.