

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT No. 87

November 23, 1967

THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION

Text of Statement made by the Canadian Representative, Mrs. Sally Merchant, in the Third Committee on the World Social Situation, on November 23, 1967.

We would like at the outset to congratulate Mrs. Ingar Thorsson on her appointment and welcome her here in her new capacity. We would particularly thank her for her very lucid and illuminative presentation here this morning. She has expressed many thoughts and concerns in which we heartily concur and we want to assure Mrs. Thorsson of Canada's fullest support.

In fact, we have found her report so very useful and so comprehensive that we are prompted to ask if the Bureau would consider circulating copies among the members of the Committee. It seems to us that in printed form it would be an even more valuable basis for constructive discussion in this Committee.

It is appropriate to take this occasion to pay tribute to Miss Julia Henderson who, as the former Director of the Bureau of Social Affairs, has immeasurably assisted the work of the Commission over so many years. I would commend to this Committee's attention the statement made by Miss Henderson to the Committee for Programme and Coordination on May 12 of this year. Miss Henderson succinctly analyzed the evolution of the social development program of the United Nations through five successive stages, each succeeding stage characterized by a greater awareness that specific social problems in the world cannot be dealt with in isolation but must be understood in the context of the whole social, cultural and economic environment, and solutions found accordingly. My delegation suggests that this is the perspective from which we should view the reports before us.

The Canadian delegation has reviewed with a great deal of interest the Report of the Secretary-General on the World Social Situation (Document A/6826) in which the major items to be considered under this agenda item are identified. Before commenting on the Report and the other related documents, my delegation wishes to express its satisfaction with the decision taken at last year's Assembly and by this year's Third Committee to accord a high priority to this item on our agenda. We are all painfully aware that the world social situation, particularly as it refers to the living conditions of people in less developed countries,