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Statement by Mrs. Harry S. Quart, M.B.E., Canadian Representative  
on the Third Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee of the  
United Nations General Assembly, October 1, 1957.

... Mr. Chairman, since Canada has been a member of  
the Economic and Social Council during the past two years and  
has therefore had the opportunity to participate actively in  
the formulation of policies and programmes for the United  
Nations in the social and human rights fields, it will not be  
necessary for me to say very much in detail about those pro-  
grammes. I should, nevertheless, like to comment on a few of  
the subjects which are covered by the report.

I turn first to Chapter VI which deals with social  
questions. At the 24th Session of the Council we listened to,  
and participated in, a lively and extensive debate on the World  
Social Situation. For its consideration under that item the  
Council had before it a very large number of reports of  
exceptionally high standard. Among those many documents there  
was the report of the Social Commission covering its eleventh  
session, a report by a Working Group on the Maintenance of  
Family Levels of Living, (the Chairman of which, by the way,  
was a Canadian, Dr. Davidson, the Deputy Minister of Welfare),  
as well as a report by the Secretary-General on concepts and  
principles of community development, a subject to which this  
Committee devoted considerable attention last year.

At the center of its discussion the Council had a  
report on the World Social Situation. That report covered  
the period since 1952 when the Council had considered a  
preliminary report which had portrayed a period of struggle  
to recover from the social dislocation and poverty caused by  
the Second World War. As the Secretary-General said in  
introducing the debate in the Council, the new report covered  
years which had not been ideally peaceful or secure, but  
during which people in most parts of the world had nevertheless  
had a better chance of enjoying the fruits of their own labour,  
and governments had been able with international assistance to  
devote more thought and greater resources to the promotion of  
social and economic progress. Some measurable gains had been  
made in social conditions but there were nevertheless some  
ominous trends and unsolved problems which were very significant.  
Among those problems the Secretary-General cited the unpre-  
cedented growth of world population and the problems raised by  
the rapid movement of rural populations into cities unprepared  
to receive them.

In the debate which followed there was a common  
recognition of the inter-dependence of social and economic  
progress. There was also wide recognition of the necessity  
for well-conceived policies to meet the problems of rapid  
urbanization. I think it might be said that one of the most  
significant things which emerged from the report on the World  
Social Situation and its discussion in the Council was not so  
much the description of the progress which had been made in  
the world in social betterment in recent years, but in the  
evidence which the report provided that progress can in fact  
be made. To ensure continuation of that progress it is