

No. 53/74 Prevention of Discrimination and the  
Protection of Minorities

Text of statement made by Mrs. A. L. Caldwell, representative of Canada in the Third Committee of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, on September 29, 1953, on agenda item 63 - Technical assistance in the fields of prevention of discrimination and the protection of minorities.

Note - The text of the resolution adopted on this subject by the General Assembly and the results of the voting are included at the end of the statement.

The question before this Committee is one with which we are in full accord. As I said previously, the Canadian Government has continuously supported the various United Nations technical assistance programmes, and will continue to do so. We fully appreciate the importance of the draft resolution before us, and any practical and sound steps towards prevention of discrimination, and protection of minorities, will have our active support. We are particularly anxious that in our discussions we should aim at concrete achievements.

With this in mind, I would like to say something about the draft amendments of Mexico, Syria and Guatemala and offer some suggestions about the draft resolution itself.

It seems to the Canadian Delegation that the draft amendment proposed by the Mexican representative is open to several objections. First of all, it still brings in the question of education, which we think comes within the field of activities allocated to the Specialized Agencies, and the explanation given yesterday by the representative of UNESCO confirms our understanding that technical assistance in the field of education should be UNESCO's responsibility. The UNESCO representative also assures us that UNESCO has already initiated projects which meet the object of the Mexican amendment. We strongly feel that duplication in the efforts and programmes of the United Nations should be avoided, not only because of financial implications, but for the maximum effectiveness of the United Nations as a whole. We also understand that the Council's Social Committee eliminated reference to "educational programmes designed to combat prejudice and discrimination", which was contained in the draft resolution then submitted by the Commission on Human Rights, because such educational programmes were already included in the existing arrangements for the provision of technical assistance. For these reasons, I regret to say that the Canadian Delegation will have to vote against the Mexican draft amendment.