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HUMAN RESOURCES AND THE UNITED NATIONS

In a recent address to the United Nations Children's Fund Committee of Canada in Toronto, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, discussed "the important contributions of the United Nations toward the mobilization of human resources for the economic and social development of the world". "It is generally accepted these days," said Mr. Martin, "that investment in human resources represents an overriding priority in all development plans, whether national or international. When I served as Minister of National Health and Welfare from 1946 to 1957, I was continually conscious of this overriding priority within Canada. As Secretary of State for External Affairs, I am even more aware of the ever-pressing need to preserve and develop the human resources of the international community."

The body of Mr. Martin's speech follows:
 ...UNICEF's activities on behalf of the child are a central factor in the world's efforts to raise its living standards. The newly-elected Chairman of the UNICEF Executive Board, Mrs. Zena Harman, aptly made this point, when addressing an FAO conference last year. She stated:

"The unanimity which UNICEF elicits in the United Nations is based not only on the natural sentiment and feelings of sympathy which the child invokes, transcending political differences, but on the knowledge that all today's efforts are dependent, for their ultimate success, on the strength and ability manifested by the new generation as it grows to maturity. The massive attack launched under the Decade of Development on poverty and misery must

commence with concern for the child. Today's child is an economic factor of crucial importance for tomorrow."

AMELIORATION OF THE PROBLEM

In the context of the United Nations Development Decade, UNICEF and approximately 40 other United Nations agencies are intensifying their efforts to mobilize and sustain support for measures required for the economic and social advancement of nations. Unfortunately, this aspect of the United Nations' work never attracts the publicity that its success warrants. Nevertheless, the eradication of the basic causes of conflict in the world is being pursued vigorously through the 13 Specialized Agencies and and the 25 or so other United Nations agencies.

The World Health Organization, for example, is assisting the imperative need for emerging countries to control disease and to establish comprehensive health services. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has been mobilizing public opinion and securing international co-operation in order to give crucial assistance to millions of refugees throughout the globe, while the Special Fund is supporting 286 projects to assist countries to investigate their natural resources, to improve and expand the use of local materials and products, and to train their human resources. These are but three examples of a mighty world-wide battle. This massive campaign would have been unthinkable 20 or 30 years ago.

As an illustration of this substantial United Nations role in the solution of economic and social