

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(EIGHTEENTH SESSION)

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STATEMENT BY
MRS. MARGARET KONANTZ, M.P.
TO THE THIRD COMMITTEE ON ITEM NO. 12
REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, CHAPTERS
9, 10, AND 13 (SECTION 7)

Mr. Chairman,

The report of the Economic and Social Council is of great importance. Men and women all over the world who put their hopes in the social, cultural and humanitarian achievements of the United Nations have more than interest in our decisions. They wait in hope. Many sections of this report will come under study by this Committee at a later stage. Therefore, my delegation would like to concentrate its attention on the general work of the United Nations in the social field, and on those areas in which Canada has a particular interest.

First, I wish to refer to the 1963 Report on the World Social Situation. This report is an excellent survey of social conditions and the policies which might be set forth to improve social conditions in different areas of the world.

My delegation heartily endorses the theme proposed by the Secretary-General for the next report on the World Social Situation, "Motivation for Development". We hope that this report will bring to light the factors which encourage members of communities to work together for improvement.

On behalf of Canada I wish to express our gratitude once again to the Netherlands' Government for having made a grant of \$1 million towards the establishment of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development in Geneva. We believe that this Institute will make a

most valuable contribution towards solving many of the difficulties which have challenged programmes of social development. With the cooperation of the Bureau of Social Affairs, the specialized agencies concerned and the Regional Economic Commissions, this Research Institute will, in its 3 to 5 year period of existence open new paths towards the solution of social problems on the regional, national and international level.

My Government has taken note, with great interest, of the report of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Community Development, which met in New York earlier this year. It is our opinion that the importance of community development cannot be over-estimated in any planning designed to promote social development.

The United Nations Community Development programme has a unique and indispensable role to play. Having had some experience in several community development programmes in action in African and Asian countries, UNICEF, WHO, UNESCO, FAO, and ILO are to be congratulated for the outstanding contributions they are making in this field and the fine example that is being set by all these agencies in the spirit of teamwork. Interest in the advantages of community development is spreading throughout the world for these programmes are designed to strengthen the ability of whole communities of people to advance through local action. It is particularly important at this time when the demand for assistance is steadily rising and the United Nations is receiving many more requests than it can handle, that there be a special emphasis on community development as a local initiative. We would hope that the developing countries would increase their efforts to organize themselves on a local and regional basis so that they may understand their own particular needs, determine those which should have priority, and ensure that their local resources are fully utilized. In this way they will see their own immediate problems and will be better able to anticipate what future action should be taken and from what particular projects they would most benefit.

Community development is a slow process and the fact that too much has been expected in the past has probably created some impatience with this slowness. The task ahead is a tremendous one but it is unrealistic to think that the United Nations can do it alone. The countries which benefit from United Nations programmes should prepare the groundwork by taking the necessary steps to inform their people of all the advantages in community development, both on the local and national levels. If the people themselves are not aware of the tremendous need for community development, projects instituted will be of little value.

I might mention here the role that volunteer agencies can play in community development in the developing countries as they have done in many of the industrialized countries, by making the community aware of their own ability to remedy their problems without waiting for government assistance. In Canada, for example, volunteer groups have often taken the lead in promoting action in education, social welfare and cultural activities. In view of their previous experience in this field the Canadian people are following with great interest the progress which the developing countries are achieving through this same approach. Indicative of the interest in Canada in this subject were the two seminars recently held, one called "Adventure in Development" and the other, "Challenge in World Development".

UNICEF has played a most important role in community development and at a period when requests for assistance are rising so dramatically it seems to us a matter of great importance that one member of the United Nations family has its aim focused at all times on the needs of the child. We are particularly pleased that UNICEF in its programmes for children, including community development, has been working in close cooperation with the specialized agencies.

My Government has always been most impressed by the encouraging support received by UNICEF everywhere both through voluntary agencies and governmental contributions. In Canada, for example, the

Canadian Committee for UNICEF last year raised more than half a million dollars for UNICEF through the sale of greeting cards, Halloween for UNICEF Campaign, and voluntary contributions. We hope that the enthusiasm for UNICEF will continue to increase.

We are happy that the Executive Board of UNICEF has decided to hold its January meeting in Bangkok. This will create new interest in this outstanding organization and give Executive Board members a chance to see UNICEF in action. My Government would like to congratulate UNICEF for the excellent work accomplished by its programmes during the past year. However, an organization from time to time must look back on its previous achievements, self-examine its record in a changing world and make careful planning for the future. We hope that the Bangkok session will prove useful and productive in this regard.

My delegation was particularly happy to learn that the Nobel Prize Committee of the Norwegian Parliament has awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 1963 jointly to the International Red Cross Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies. The Red Cross not only contributes materially to the well-being of the world, it also sets an atmosphere of peace by the very nature of its activities. We feel that Canada shares somewhat in this honour bestowed on the Red Cross since a Canadian, Mr. John A. MacAulay has been Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, during the last four years.

The Canadian Government had the honour to participate this year in the first session of the Economic and Social Council Committee on Housing, Building and Planning. We believe that this first session accomplished a great deal towards solving the fundamental problems of housing. There seems to have been general agreement among members of the Committee on the following three points:

- (1) that housing has not received the international and national attention which it deserves;
- (2) that housing will continue to suffer unless a concerted effort is made to coordinate international action in this field concurrent with national action;

- (3) that while housing will need increased international assistance, national governments should give housing a higher priority in order to meet pressing requirements.

My Government co-sponsored with other governments in this Committee a resolution urging coordination of United Nations assistance in the field of housing. We understand that the Secretary-General has been obtaining the advice of housing experts on management, organization and administration of international programmes in housing and we are looking forward with great interest to the report on these studies.

As I have said before, my Government had the honour of participating for the first time in the work of the Commission on Human Rights and took a particular interest in the preparation of the Draft Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination. I would like to impress on other delegates the spirit of objectivity which guides the Commission in the preparation of original drafts. I think, Mr. Chairman, that we should all try to appreciate the amount of hard work and the genuine spirit of cooperation which animates the proceedings of the Commission in the drafting of texts which are forwarded to this Committee for consideration. We should never lose sight of the fact that the Human Rights Commission is composed of senior governmental representatives, many of whom have had long experience with these subjects.

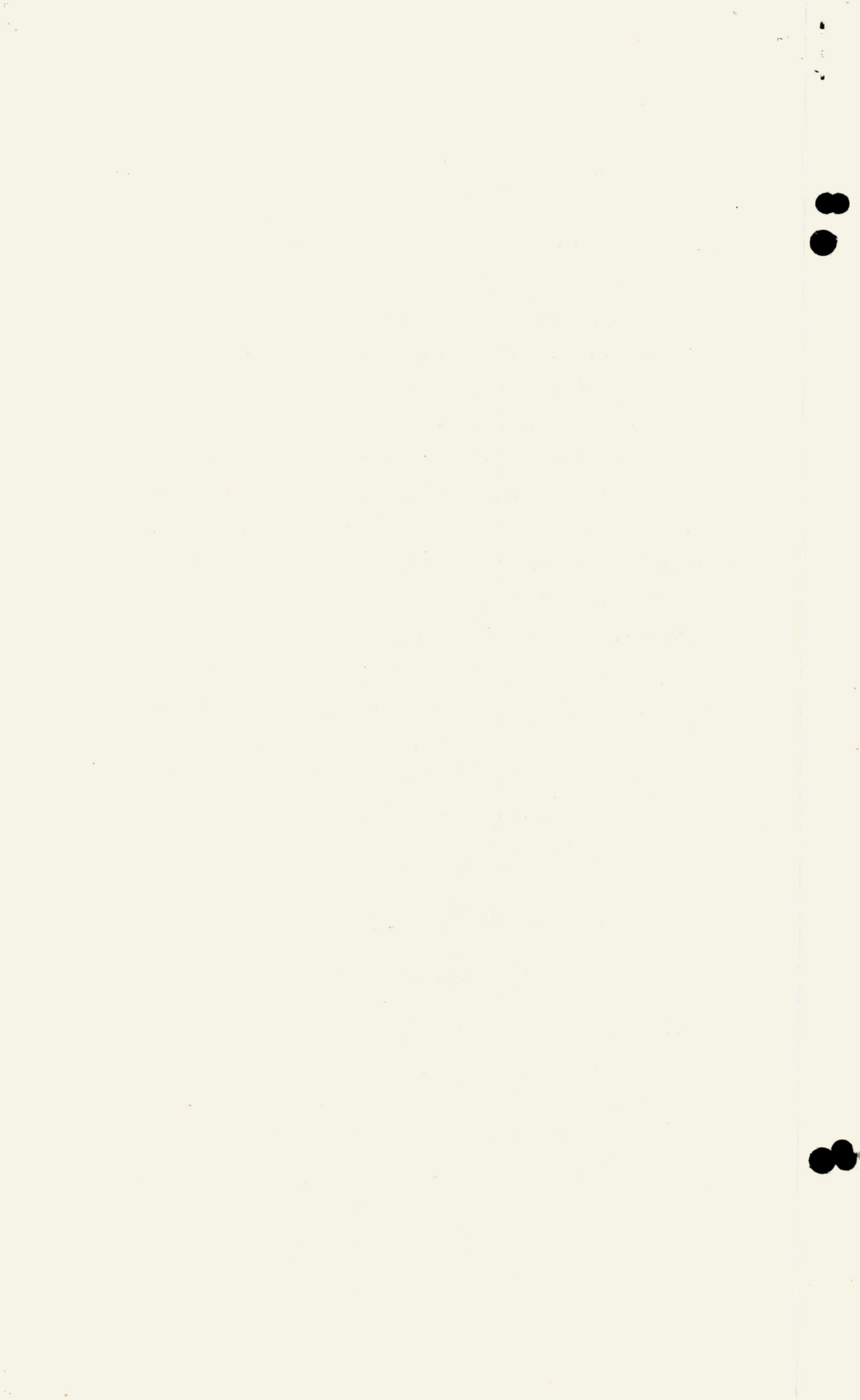
Another aspect of the Report which we would like to mention briefly is the reference to the excellent work on Capital Punishment prepared by Mr. Marc Ancel. In this connection, I would like to state that Canadian domestic legislation in this regard has been subjected to considerable changes in the past few years. As a result of amendments to our criminal code, the death penalty now applies in Canada only to very few capital crimes in extreme circumstances. It is therefore with considerable dismay that we hear of the death penalty being applied in certain countries for economic crimes. Such practices to us are more reminiscent of the feudal period of history than of the world in which we live and of the world that we are planning for tomorrow.

My delegation is glad to see that the Secretariat will undertake surveys to determine the role played by women in public life. Of primary importance for the advancement of women in developing countries is the need for educational and vocational training. My Government considers that it is most desirable that a long-term United Nations programme for the advancement of women should be further developed as an integral part of existing technical assistance, rather than as a separate programme. At the same time, all United Nations programmes for women should be coordinated in the United Nations.

My delegation wishes to express its appreciation for the work undertaken by the Secretariat in population research. Many of these studies will constitute useful material for the Second World Population Conference which will take place in 1965. While my Government's position is that each country should be left to decide by itself population policies, we do not under-estimate the necessity of carrying on scientific research on this most important problem.

As we did last year, my Government would like to make a few remarks about the Single Convention on Narcotic drugs. Although the report of the Eighteenth Session of the Narcotics Commission does not contain a resolution as it did last year urging governments to ratify the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, this should in no way be regarded as an indication that the view of the Narcotics Commission with respect to the Single Convention has changed. On the contrary at the Eighteenth Session a great many countries indicated that they were considering ratifying the convention.

The 1961 Convention not only climaxes fifty years of experience in the field of international narcotics control but was the result of many years of careful planning. It reflects the views and experience of many countries that are most qualified to deal with this important but complicated subject. It would bring to an end the present unsatisfactory situation whereby the field of international narcotics control is occupied by some nine multilateral treaties not uniformly



accepted and each dealing with different aspects of the problem. Canada's belief in the Single Convention is perhaps best evidenced by the fact that we were the first country to ratify it. My Government is therefore hopeful that the ratifications which have followed will be followed in turn by at least a requisite number to bring the convention into full operation at the earliest possible time.

My Government would also like to express its agreement with the principle set forth in the Council's resolution 965-B which requests the General Assembly to enlarge the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from 25 to 30 members, to reconfirm the existing membership of the committee for the duration of the High Commissioner's mandate and to elect the five additional members at its resumed session next December. Canada hopes that all countries with legitimate interest in refugee problems will as a result continue to be represented on an equitable basis on the Executive Committee.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, my delegation wishes to stress that almost four years have passed since the United Nations Development Decade was launched. The experience we have gained during these four years has reinforced rather than diminished our belief in international development. Nonetheless, while a great deal has been accomplished already, much remains to be done. In 1959, Mr. Paul Hoffman said, "The crucial decade 1960-1970 is just around the corner. In that decade half the world's population must find proof that they are on the road to a freer and richer life. If we can accelerate the pace of economic development in the 1960's as we hope, and if it can be maintained, we will come close by the end of the century to banishing the poverty, illiteracy and chronic ill health which have plagued the human race since the beginning of time." This is the challenge we still face. We have just six years to make a significant step.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

