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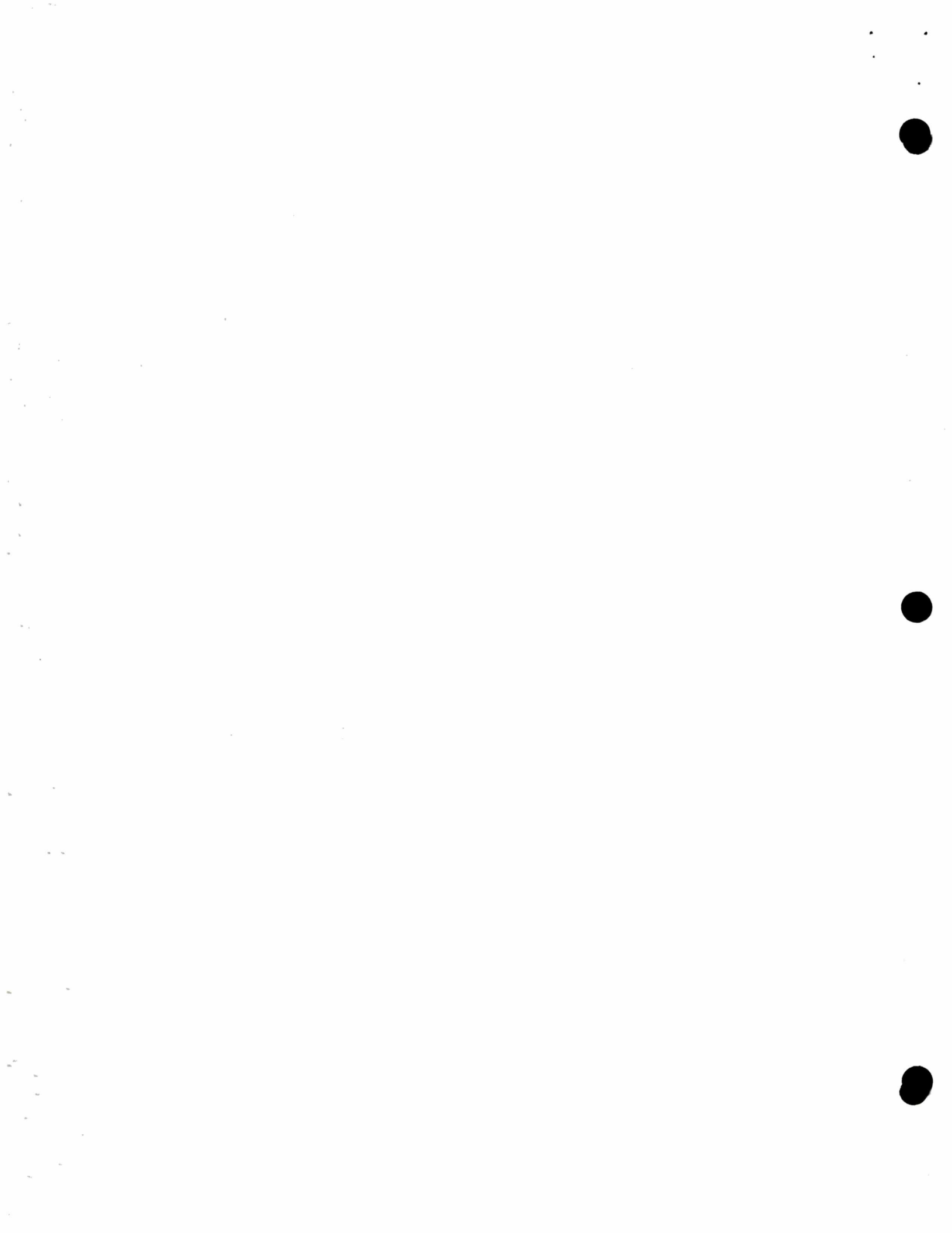
United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Statement to the Second Committee of the
General Assembly by the Canadian Representative,
Ambassador Bruce Rankin

Mr. Chairman,

It is difficult to imagine a new international organization born amid more difficulties than the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. There was a widespread desire for much more work in the field of industrial development but there also was a genuine difference of opinion about whether a new organization was necessary and, if so, what form it should take. And even when it had been created, the problems of the new organization were far from over. It was entering a field where a number of existing organizations already had legitimate claims to expertise in certain specific sectors. In these circumstances, it has not proven easy to define precisely the role of this youngest member of the United Nations family. The smooth assumption of its task has, moreover, been hindered by the move of its headquarters from New York to Vienna. The concurrent demands of preparing for the forthcoming Industrial Symposium in Athens have only rendered a difficult transitional period yet more difficult. Finally, certain underlying elements cannot be overlooked. There is sometimes in the world today, occupied as it is with a multitude of difficult international problems,

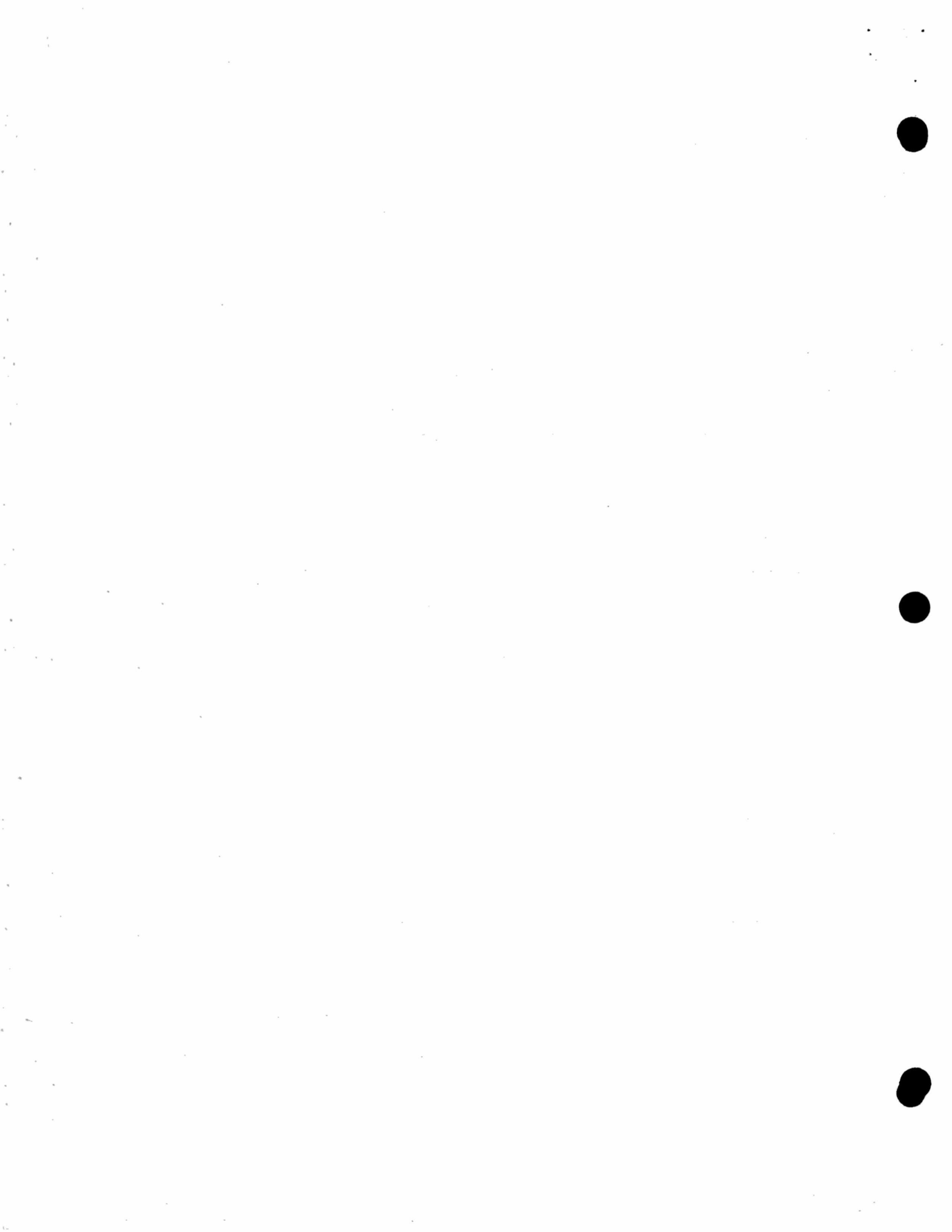
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a regrettable neglect of assistance efforts, what the Canadian Prime Minister has called "a weariness with well-doing". Finally, and perhaps this is the most important factor, the question of industrial development remains one of the most complex and elusive economic problems the United Nations family has ever tackled.

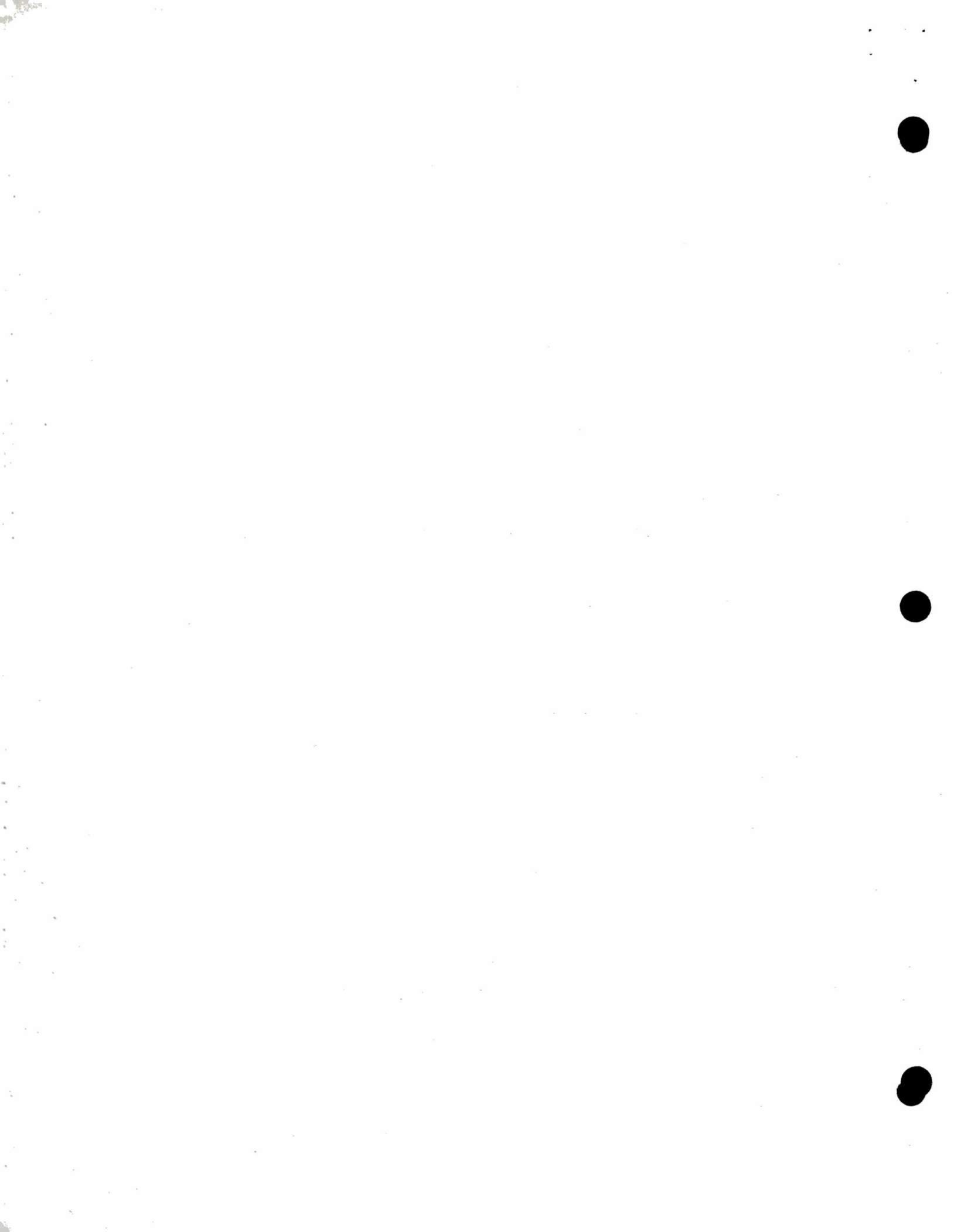
But clearly a start had to be made somewhere, even against such a daunting background as I have attempted to sketch. With the assistance of the distinguished Executive-Director, the Industrial Development Board at its first session finally managed to hammer out a work programme - or at least the outline of a work programme - for UNIDO. The essence of that outline was the oft-repeated theme that the work of the Organization must be "action-oriented". That phrase became something of a slogan - often an imprecise one - during that first long session of the Board. But it did at least reflect the widespread desire to move away from research of long-term or even of only academic value to activities in the field which would lead directly to the erection of chimneys on the landscape of developing countries. We in Canada have welcomed this accomplishment of the first session of the Industrial Development Board.

The understandable preoccupation with action among members of the Board has in turn influenced the draft work programme for UNIDO for 1968 in document ID/B/20. Ideally, the work programme should be closely examined in the first instance by the Industrial Development Board and then, if necessary, any major recommendations passed on to the General Assembly through ECOSOC. But unfortunately



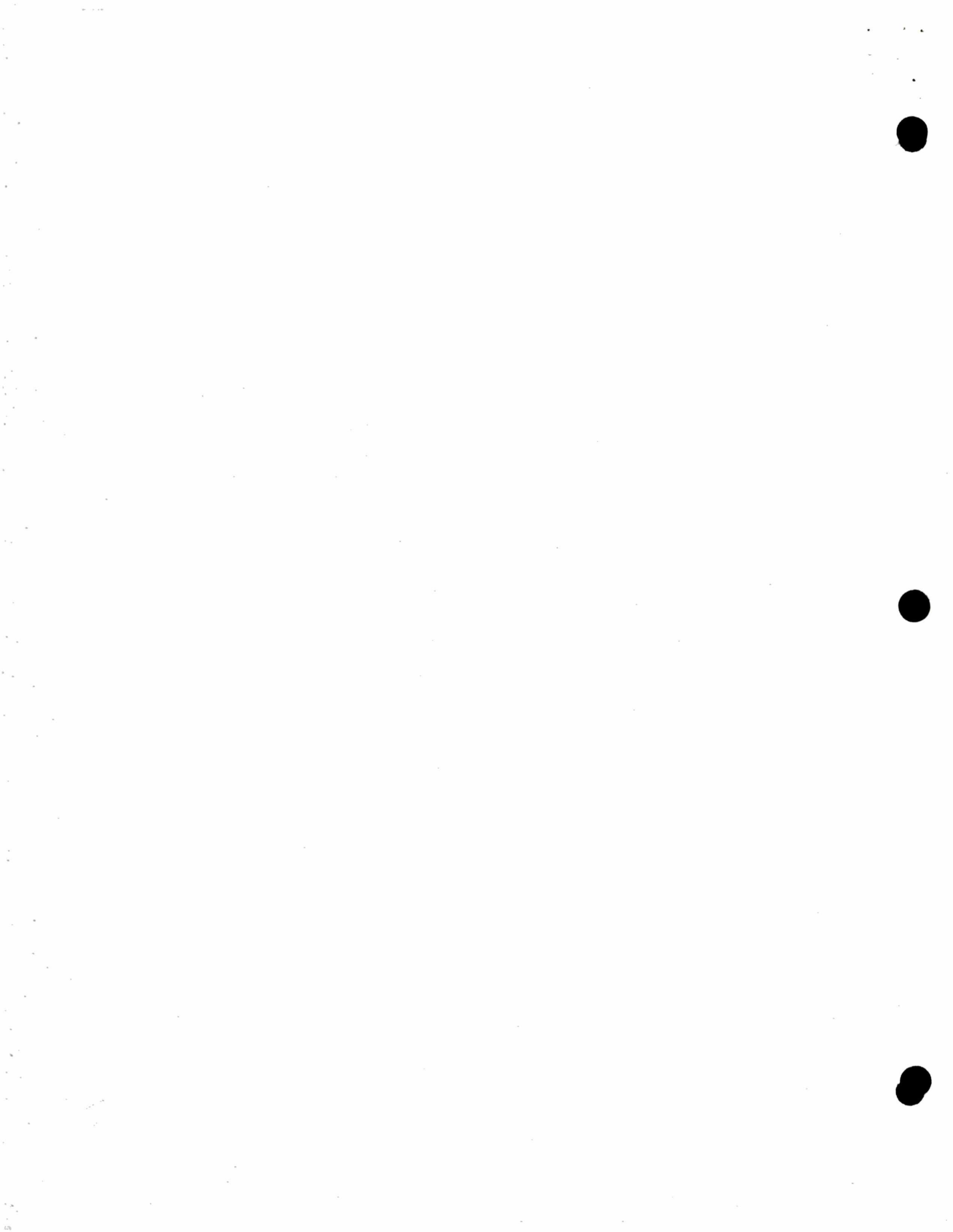
time does not permit that orderly procedure this year. 1968 will be one-third over before the Industrial Development Board can examine the work programme of UNIDO. This Committee is hardly the place for a careful and thorough study of the UNIDO work programme. However, within these unsatisfactory limitations imposed by the calendar, we can take confidence from the fact that the Executive-Director has clearly had in mind the pre-occupations of the first session of the Industrial Development Board when he subsequently prepared the work programme. If that programme is still not as "action-oriented" as one might have wished, it must be recalled that UNIDO carries a legacy from the past. The nature of the work programme undertaken by the earlier centre for Industrial Development has not yet been completed and has understandably influenced the course of the new programme. We trust, however, that the Board's directives will also influence the way that past work programmes are completed - insofar as the transitional nature of 1968 permits.

We are equally confident that further progress will be made in 1968 in building that network of cooperative effort which is essential if the industrial development activities of the United Nations family are to succeed. We in Canada have been gratified by the several indications in document ID/B/20 that gradually that co-operative network is being constructed. Good examples of this are the way in which UNIDO has joined with the FAO and the World Bank group in promoting fertilizer industries or with the UNDP, GATT, UNCTAD and the regional economic and economic commissions in an important and far-reaching export promotion programme.



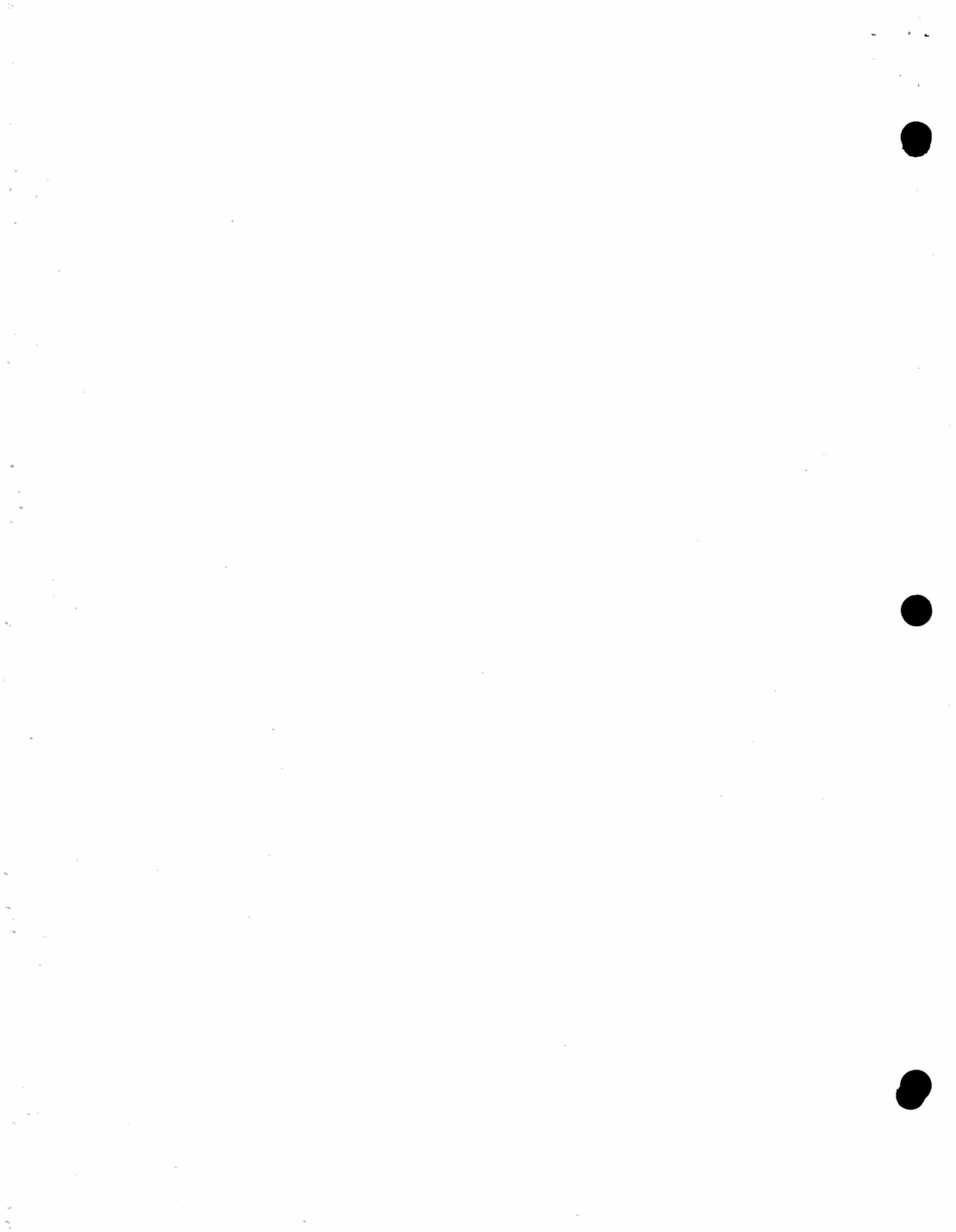
Such joint projects should help to ensure yet greater understanding of the complex nature of industrial development. Equally, the agreement concluded on October 3 to appoint industrial advisers from UNIDO to the offices of Resident Representatives should help to keep the attention of the whole Organization on the problems of individual countries. Obviously, industrial development must be approached primarily on a country-by-country basis because of wide differences among developing countries with respect to both economic and non-economic factors. In the case of many countries, industrialization does not require an advance in technology or economic theory. What is required in the main is the adoption or the adaption of techniques already well known. Here the field advisers should have a vital role to play. We welcome this step forward, first recommended by ECOSOC over two years ago.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation has read with interest the description in document ID/B/20 of the way in which UNIDO has already assumed responsibility for a large number of industrial projects financed by the UNDP. For Special Fund type projects alone, UNIDO now has the executing authority for eighteen projects totalling



more than \$36 million. We see from the documentation prepared for the January session of the UNDP Governing Council that UNIDO has been selected as the executing agency for seven more Special Fund-type projects. These are gratifying developments. We are convinced that the UNDP should be the principal source for financing UNIDO field projects. In addition, funds from the technical assistance section of the United Nations Regular Budget can provide useful "seed money" for work which may later evolve into projects financed by the UNDP.

Mr. Chairman, Canada looks forward with interest to the Industrial Symposium to be held in Athens in less than a fortnight. We hope that both the formal meetings of the Symposium and the more informal contacts under the "Industrial Promotion Service" will concentrate on areas where early progress can be made and not become lost in theoretical or



general debates leading nowhere. This will require considerable discipline on the part of all delegations. There will be no time for procedural disputes or pointless debates. If we want to assist the UNIDO in defining further the course it should follow in the years ahead and if we want ourselves to progress toward development, it will be incumbent upon all of us to avoid extraneous issues and to keep to the specific subjects for discussion. It will be with this attitude in mind that the Canadian Delegation will go to Athens, hopeful that the Symposium will be of great assistance to the further evolution of our new organization.

Mr. Chairman, at the beginning of my statement I touched on some of the difficulties surrounding the birth of UNIDO. But if I may extend the metaphor a little, there are already encouraging signs that this youngest member of the United Nations family is entering a healthy childhood. With its move to Vienna behind it and the Symposium about to be held, with responsibility for the execution of UNDP financed projects, with representatives in the field and with cooperative programmes with other international organizations, the signs are hopeful for early and sound growth. Canada supports the goals of UNIDO and we are ready to do our part to help ensure its success.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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