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Increased Canadian Pledge for Technical Assistance

The Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Paul Tremblay, today announced that subject to Parliamentary approval the Canadian Government intends to make contributions totalling $9,500,000 to the combined programme for 1966 of the United Nations Special Fund and the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA). This pledge represents an increase of $2,200,000 on Canada's 1965 total contributions to these two programmes of $7,300,000.

Mr. Tremblay made this announcement at the Special Fund - EPTA Pledging Conference held at the United Nations today and his announcement was made in the expectation that these two programmes will be combined, as now envisaged, in a United Nations development programme for pre-investment and technical assistance purposes during the current session of the General Assembly. Text of Mr. Tremblay's statement follows:

"Mr. Chairman, Canada has always supported the Expanded Technical Assistance Programme as well as the activities of the Special Fund. I am therefore gratified to announce, on behalf of my Government, that, subject to the approval of the Canadian Parliament, Canada will contribute $9,500,000 to the combined programme for 1966 of the United Nations Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. This represents an increase of almost one-third or $2,200,000 over the Canadian contributions in 1965. Canada makes this voluntary contribution to the United Nations Development Programme as envisaged in resolution 1020 of the Economic and Social Council. This resolution must still be approved by the General Assembly. In the light of developments, my Government will decide on the allocation of our increased contribution between pre-investment and technical assistance activities.

"The notable achievements of the Expanded Programme and the Special Fund clearly show the degree to which multilateral assistance can assist the developing countries in the exploitation of their natural resources in the best interests of their people. The recommendation of the Economic and Social Council that the two programmes should be merged will undoubtedly give a new dynamism to these programmes. We are certain,

Mr. Chairman , that the consolidation of the two programmes, managed so competently by Mr. Owen and Mr. Hoffman, constitutes the best guarantee of the effective use of the funds contributed and of the efficient administration of these programmes.

"In conclusion, I should like to express my Government's belief that the creation of this consolidated programme will enhance the influence and prestige of the United Nations as a whole."

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The Special Fund's pre-investment technical assistance programme is designed (a) to bring to light the development possibilities of natural resources in developing countries; (b) to train local people in the knowledge and skills required to make those resources productive; and (c) to strengthen institutions in those countries in the organization and management of important development activities. The Special Fund began operation in 1959 and Canada, which played a leading part in its establishment, has been a member of the Fund's Governing Council since its inception. The Fund has received strong support from the developed, as well as the developing countries. To date, the Fund has approved 522 projects in 130 countries at a total cost of $1,149 million of which $673 million is being provided by the developing countries themselves.

Canada's annual contribution to the Special Fund for 1965 was $5 million, making it the fifth largest contributor.

The Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) is designed to provide experts, training facilities and technical knowledge to the developing countries. In 1964 alone, over 2,500 experts were sent to assist 130 countries and territories and more than 3,000 fellowships were granted to the nationals of 150 countries and territories. EPTA's work usefully complements Canadian bilateral aid programmes, such as that carried out under the Colombo Plan. EPTA has received increasing support over the years from members of the United Nations and is considered as one of its most effective activities.

Canada has consistently been one of the leading supporters of the programme. Canada contributed $2,300,000 to EPTA in 1965.

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At this mid-point in the Development Decade, at a time when needs are increasing because of the population explosion and debt repayment problems in many developing countries, grave concern has been expressed in UNCTAD and other international forums that the flow of assistance to developing countries has levelled off. Consequently a new target for the combined programmes of the Special Fund and EPTA of $200 million, up from $150 million, was endorsed in June by the Governing Council of the Special Fund. This target has been supported by the Secretary-General and it is expected that it will be approved during this session of the General Assembly. Canada's substantial increase in its contribution is in response to this urgent call for additional development funds.