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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION YEAR

Text of Statement to be made in the Plenary Session of the General Assembly by the Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mr. George Ignatieff, on Item 24, International Cooperation Year, on December 7, 1966.

Canada was a co-sponsor of the original resolution adopted by the General Assembly in 1962 which endorsed the idea of devoting a year to the promotion of international co-operation and established a preparatory committee to study the inherent possibilities. Canada participated in the committee which was appointed to draw up plans for International Co-operation Year and my predecessor, Mr. Paul Tremblay, served for a time as Chairman of that Committee. It is, therefore, a great pleasure for my delegation to join in sponsoring the draft resolution contained in Document A/L.504.

This resolution closes the books on a constructive attempt to focus attention on the many continuing activities of international co-operation which go on day by day, year by year, without fanfare. It was entirely appropriate that we should take time to remind ourselves of what has already been achieved through international co-operative endeavours. It was also valuable to try to strengthen those activities and to create a better climate for effective international co-operation in the future.

It was the Canadian belief that the designation of a year for international co-operation would enable individuals and groups in Canada and elsewhere who were engaged in co-operative activities with similar individuals and groups in other countries, to gain increasing recognition and public support for their work. While conscious of its significance for governments, we were attracted by the opportunity it would offer to men and women the world over to participate personally in direct co-operative undertakings across national frontiers.

Viewed in isolation, each single act of co-operation which was generated by International Co-operation Year possessed an intrinsic value for the participating individuals or organizations. But, more importantly, viewed as a whole,

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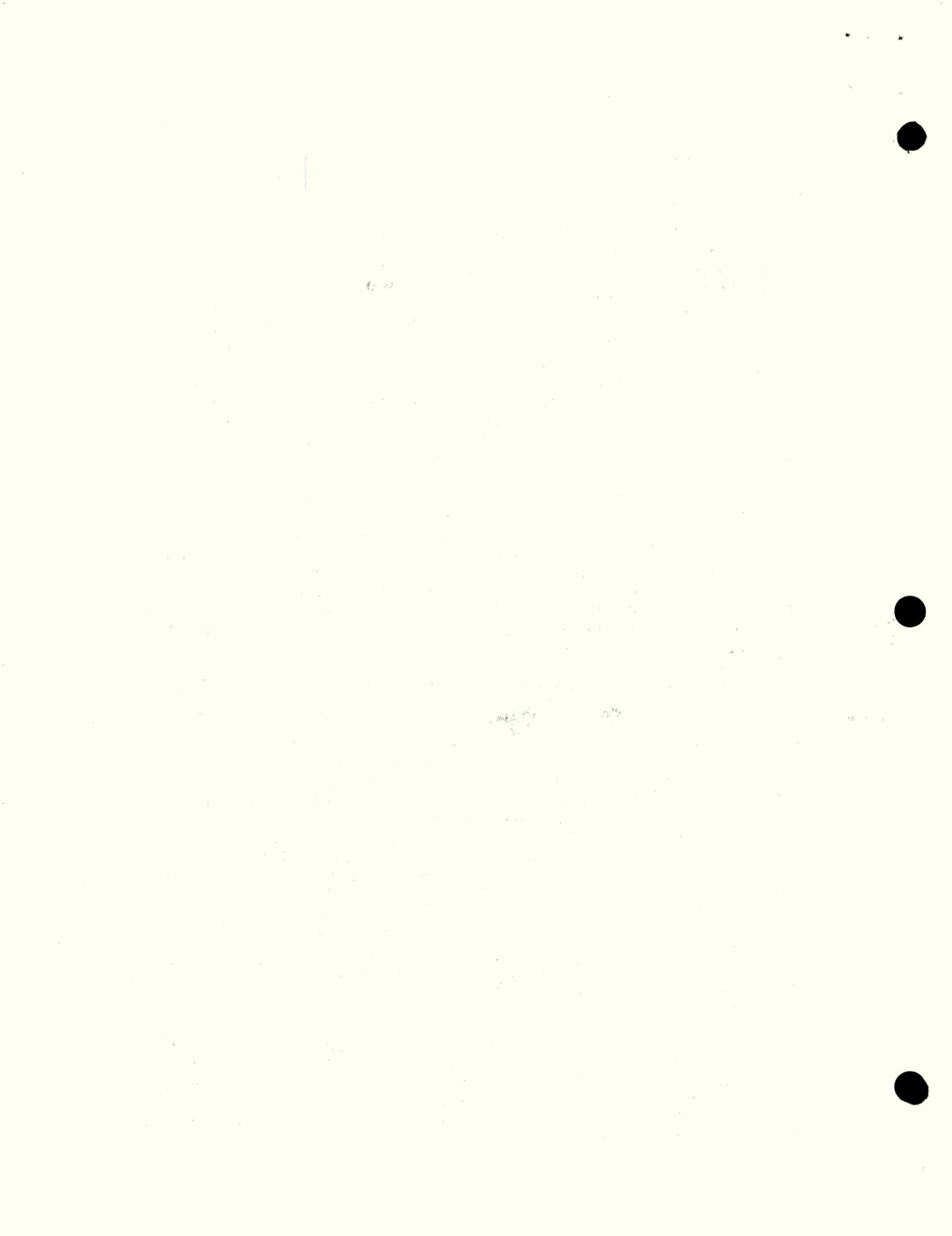
all of these activities were a striking re-affirmation of the value of international co-operation in solving common problems.

Canadians consider that the concept of international co-operation should not be viewed as having ended December 31, 1965. ICY itself was regarded as twelve months of special concentrated effort, in a long-range plan of international relationships. In Canada, activities were promoted by a National Council, led by Dr. Roby Kidd, Director of the Canadian Association for Adult Education, and Founder of the Overseas Institute of Canada. Perhaps I can best illustrate Dr. Kidd's devotion to the concept of international co-operation by telling you that during 1965, after having successfully launched the Canadian International Co-operation Year Programme, he went to India to accept an ICY assignment at the University of Rajasthan in Jaipur.

During 1965 some 200 national organizations in Canada launched special projects in support of International Co-operation Year. These projects ranged in character from co-operation in the fields of education, arts, science and sports through the provision of food, clothing and books for people in the developing countries to travel, tourism, seminars and conferences. The year was also marked in Canada by numerous press articles, radio and TV programmes and a special issue of International Co-operation Year stamps.

The degree of acceptance achieved in Canada by International Co-operation Year is indicated by the fact that our centennial celebrations next year will include an ICY element in the form of a special campaign to assist the developing countries. For this purpose, a Centennial International Development Programme has been formed to continue the work begun during International Co-operation Year by providing the necessary organizational framework through which private organizations and individuals in Canada can commemorate our centennial by contributing to a significant "gift" to the developing countries. The Canadian Government has already made a large grant to this programme to help in its work of promotion and co-ordination. Efforts such as these, in which governments, non-governmental organizations, and individuals all have a role to play, have their counterparts in many other countries. They are the enduring legacy of International Co-operation Year which was intended as a beginning, and not an end.

The Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. Pearson, said with specific reference to the purposes of the International Co-operation Year, "Make no mistake about it, peace and progress are founded on co-operation. ... Of course, this fact is obvious, but as are so many things that are obvious, it is an eternal truth. This working together, this



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co-operation must penetrate to every level of international and national activity. . . ." This is the spirit which International Co-operation Year sought to foster. The Canadian Delegation hopes that the accomplishments of International Co-operation Year will serve to generate a new impetus, especially among all members of the United Nations, towards effective co-operation in all fields of human endeavour, and in particular in the promotion of the growth and welfare of the developing nations.

I believe that the above information is correct. The above
 information was obtained from the files of the [redacted]
 and is being furnished to you for your information.
 I am sure that you will find this information of interest.
 If you have any questions, please contact me at [redacted].
 Thank you very much for your interest in this matter.
 Sincerely,
 [redacted]