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Statement by Mrs. Jean Casselman, Canadian Representative on the Third Committee on Tuesday, November 21, 1961.

Mr. Chairman:

My country has always had a keen interest in the activities of the Economic and Social Council, and has participated in the work of its functional commissions. As a number of distinguished delegates have pointed out in their speeches, it is particularly heartening that, despite the difficulties which divide us in other spheres of interest, we should find ourselves able to cooperate in furthering the important work of the Council, in its efforts to reduce the gap between the developed and the underdeveloped countries. This is one of the fundamental problems of our time. There is no quick or easy solution, but we have created within the framework of the United Nations, organizations which are working steadily to find the best means of stimulating economic and social development.

The report on the world social situation seems to my delegation a considered and balanced document, which analyses clearly a number of complex problems. We should like to join other delegations in commending the Social Commission on its report.

To a very large extent we have all tended to concentrate on the economic problems which confront the world. There were, of course, excellent reasons why we should have done so. The destruction caused by the Second World War, and the need to provide quickly for rapidly increasing populations, lent a sense of urgency to economic development aid. The concept of balanced social and economic development has only recently been recognized. Economic progress is now seen to be dependent to a very considerable degree upon social progress, and even the most imaginative and far-reaching

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aid programmes are much less effective when they are unaccompanied by social advance, in the countries where such programmes are undertaken. My own country, Mr. Chairman, has had a good deal of experience in the various cooperative plans for providing technical assistance, both in the United Nations and in such common endeavours as the Colombo Plan, under which we contribute fifty million dollars annually. Insufficient emphasis has been placed upon the social consequences of industrialization in formerly agricultural countries, and the need for integrating social and economic programmes has all too often been overlooked. With this in mind, my delegation is particularly happy to co-sponsor with 15 other countries a resolution contained in document L.957, to strengthen the work of the Social Commission, of which Canada is now a member. The establishment of ad hoc groups of experts on the relation of community development programmes to national development, including land reform, and in housing and urban development, will make a useful contribution to the continuing study of these topics. We also welcome the decision to enlarge and convene the social commission annually. It is perhaps difficult to determine just how frequently a functional commission should meet if it is to make the most of its opportunities. Meetings of this kind need a good deal of preparatory work, which involves among other things the production of the necessary papers for each agenda item and taking the necessary action on the recommendations of the Commission; until we have seen how annual meetings work out in practice, it may be unrealistic to comment usefully in their introduction. In any event, we hope that other delegations will wish to support this draft resolution which might be regarded as an essential first step to remedy some of the deficiencies pointed out in the report on the world social situation.

The figures and relevant data provided by the Population Commission are a valuable contribution in an increasingly

important field of interest. We welcome the decision to increase the membership of the Commission to 18, which will permit a more balanced and proportionate representation, particularly as regards the newly independent African nations. In resolution 320.B, the Secretary-General is asked to provide such technical assistance as may be necessary. Canada is already providing educational and technical training to students from the less developed countries - in this academic year there are more than 650 foreign and Commonwealth students at Canadian universities financed by funds from Canada's External aid programmes. In addition some ten and one-half million dollars is to be spent over a three-year period as special Commonwealth aid to Africa. Three hundred thousand dollars a year is to be spent to provide educational assistance to the French speaking states of Africa.

Canada was one of the founder members of UNICEF, has participated actively in its development over the years and Canadians continue to have the keenest interest in its programmes. My delegation is particularly pleased to be one of the co-sponsors of the resolution, the text of which is contained in document L.957, which endorses the new emphasis and approach that was so lucidly explained to us by the Chairman of the Board in his able and convincing address to the Committee. UNICEF has been especially happy in the high calibre of those whom it has attracted to its service. The story of UNICEF is a moving one. Year by year it has extended its services to the children of many countries, conducted surveys on their needs, improved their diet and brought hope to those who might otherwise have known only despair and apathy. UNICEF has frequently co-ordinated its programmes with those of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and we are pleased that this aspect of its work is to be made still more fruitful. The number of organizations now working in the aid field has made co-ordination even more essential than it once

was, if we are to guard against duplication of effort and if we are to achieve the optimum benefit from the various programmes now being undertaken. It is the hope of my delegation that all countries represented here will be able to support this resolution.

Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned before, the Canadian public has always had a warm interest in UNICEF - an interest which has been reflected in the very considerable sales of UNICEF Christmas greeting cards and the collection by the children in 1960 of over a quarter of a million dollars by such means as the annual Hallowe'en campaign for funds. Their interest has also been reflected by the participation of the Canadian Government itself in directing the work of UNICEF. Canada has been represented on the Executive Board of UNICEF on a number of occasions, and was fortunate enough to be elected again this spring for a two-year term beginning in 1962. As a further indication of our firm belief in the important work which UNICEF is doing, I am particularly pleased to announce that the Canadian Government has raised its annual contribution to UNICEF from $650,000. to $800,000. As the Chairman of the Board told us at our meeting on November 15, UNICEF, like other organizations in this field, has pressing needs brought about by the increasing demands made upon it, and deserves from all of us, I think, as much support as we are able to give.

My country is one of the permanent members of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and has always played a considerable role in its activities. The fact that the Plenipotentiary Conference for the adoption of a Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs succeeded so well in its work last April is a matter in which we can all take pride. The Single Convention by amalgamating in one text the existing multilateral treaties on narcotic drugs, and by extending the control system to take into account recent

innovations in the manufacture of drugs, will do much to simplify and make more effective the methods by which the illicit trade is controlled. The Canadian delegate to the Conference acted as Chairman of the drafting committee which produced the Single Convention, and I am glad to be able to say that Canada has been the first of the 64 countries that signed that convention, to deposit its instrument of ratification.

It would be difficult to over-estimate the amount of human suffering and degradation brought about by drug addiction, not to mention the deplorable waste of talent. Nor is this tragedy of broken lives confined to adults, for all too often in recent years narcotic drugs have been introduced to teen-age students; one of the saddest aspects of this grim trade is that by its very nature it forces the addicts to prey upon one another. The illicit trade in narcotic drugs is international in scope, and the control procedures which have been adopted by the Commission have done much to discover the sources of illicit supply and to inhibit the movement of illicit drugs from one country to another. But the trade is likely to continue so long as the demand exists, and each country must itself attempt to find and cure its own addicts. In Canada we adopted in June legislation which makes provision for new methods of treatment, and makes more meaningful and effective the penalties for offenders who are found guilty of engaging in the drug traffic. When the bill was given third reading in the House, the Minister of Justice, Mr. Fulton, described it in these terms - "The basic approach of this bill to the problem of reducing and, if possible, eliminating the illegal demand for drugs by existing addicts is to provide for appropriate institutional treatment to remedy the fundamental delinquency of the addict and to provide suitable supervision and guidance to assist the addict to abstain from using drugs during substantial periods of his life in the community." We are hopeful that this new legislation will do much

to reduce the number of addicts.

I should like, Sir, to make some brief comments on the resolution co-sponsored by a number of countries to provide scholarships in the field of human rights. We are agreed in principle that there is a need to expand our work in this area. The seminars which have been held under the sponsorship of the Commission have been very successful indeed. We hope that the seminars will continue to be given first priority and I was glad when my distinguished colleague from the United States said that the fellowships programme would not be developed at the expense of the seminar programme. I was also happy to note that no specific target number of scholarships has been stipulated. In the view of the rather poor response there has been for the present scholarship programme, it would in the opinion of my delegation, be unrealistic to suppose that there would be a large number of qualified candidates available next year. This programme might in practical terms be regarded as something of an experiment. It may well take some time before the programme can be assured of a good supply of candidates who would benefit from such studies, and this would seem to suggest the desirability of a gradual, pragmatic approach. Because of the uncertainties involved, the Secretary-General's note in Document A/C.3/L947, which states that the Secretariat would undertake to provide for any additional requirements next year "out of total resources foreseen for 1962", seems to us a sensible approach. In view of our keen interest in the human rights activities of the United Nations, and the practicable approach which has been taken, my delegation will vote in favour of this draft resolution.

I need hardly assure you, Mr. Chairman, that my country will continue to do its full share in supporting the

activities of the United Nations in this vital field of human endeavour. Our efforts to bring into better balance the disparity which exists between the more developed and the less developed countries can be successful, if we are all willing to play our part in lending the most active support, financially and morally, to the United Nations and its specialized agencies. In the chequered history of mankind, there can have been few periods when the need has been greater for the fullest cooperation. Surely, Sir, it is a source of some satisfaction that so much has been achieved, and the report itself serves as an additional and urgent reminder that still more remains to be done.