

STATEMENT No. 86

November 22, 1967

UNITAR

Text of the Statement made in the ^{2nd} ~~Third~~ Committee by
the Canadian Representative, ~~Mrs. Sally Morehead~~ *Mr. Bruce Rankin*.

I would like to comment briefly on the Report of the Executive Director on the work of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research as contained in document A/6875. This report reveals that the Institute is now a going concern, as far as training and research programmes are concerned. We have noted with satisfaction the encouraging progress which has been made in the elaboration and the reformulation of the research programme, as well as of the training programme. The Report of the Executive Director indicates that, in the field of research, twelve major projects - several of them involving a number of related studies - are now underway. In many of these projects, as underlined by the report, UNITAR is pioneering in new areas and with methods that have not yet been tried in the United Nations. The goal and the challenge are great and the difficulties, naturally, are considerable. But it is evident from the Report of the Executive Director that these twelve projects are attracting wide support - precisely because they aim high and because they promise to serve as catalysts, opening up new lines of inquiry and, hopefully, new ways to successful action. We believe the talent of UNITAR should be used on a variety of problems of concern to the United Nations family - including those of peace and security.

In the field of training, the reformulation of the foreign service officers' training programme has been undertaken and, in 1968, advanced training and regional seminars will be provided in the field of international law. On the whole, the development of sound programmes in the two fields of training and research is very encouraging. In this respect, Mr. Chairman, I would like to express, on behalf of my Government, our appreciation to the Executive Director of UNITAR, Mr. Gabriel d'Arbousse, for the work he has done during the difficult period of establishing the Institute.

Turning now, Mr. Chairman, to the important problem of the financial standing of the Institute, we must recognize that this situation, which was precarious last year, has not since improved significantly, according to the report of the Executive Director. It is becoming clear that urgent consideration will have to be given in the near future to attracting new voluntary contributions, if UNITAR is to complete its experimental five-year operation. My Government will continue to contribute \$60,000 annually for the remaining years of the initial five-year period.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to appeal to the delegations present here not to try to influence the policy decisions of the Board of Trustees of UNITAR. We must remember that the Institute, which is financed from voluntary contributions, is an autonomous body and only its Board of Trustees has the power to formulate its programmes. Provisions for such independence were and remain necessary if the Institute is to preserve its academic integrity and retain the confidence of us all.

These are, Mr. Chairman, the comments that I wanted to make, on behalf of my Government, concerning the United Nations Institute for Training and Research which we hope will continue to proceed along its present hopeful course.

Thank you.

