

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement No. 60

October 27, 1967.

Text of a Supplementary Statement to be delivered by the Canadian Representative in the Fifth Committee, Mr. Lloyd Francis, on Item 80, Implementation of the Recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the U.N. and the Specialized Agencies, October 27, 1967.

My delegation was pleased to co-sponsor the resolution on the Secretary-General's report on Implementation of the Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on U.N. Finances and we did so without reservations. We intervened during the course of the debate on this item with a general statement; but we would like at this point to make a few comments on the report presented under this item on the Panel of External Auditors which was issued after our statement. I refer to Document A/C.5/L.902.

It is my delegation's view that the information set out in this document fully answers the questions raised during the course of our discussions of this item about the nature and functions of the Panel and its relationship with the Joint Inspection Unit. We were grateful to learn in this report about the background of the Panel and interested to receive details concerning the intention of the members of the Panel to expand the scope of their present work, where necessary, to include some degree of management or operational type auditing. We were pleased to note that with this in mind, the members intend to review the financial regulations governing external audit of the agencies for which they are responsible to ensure that the present wording enables them to make observations on administrative and management matters as recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee on U.N. Finances in paragraph 67(a) of its second report. We were also encouraged to note that they intend to determine to what extent uniformity of wording can be obtained in the financial regulations of the various organizations with regard to external audit.

My delegation would like to endorse the Panel's conclusion that the corporate role envisaged by the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts on U.N. Finances for a panel of auditors -- that is the promotion and development of common audit standards throughout the United Nations family -- can and should be carried out by the existing Panel of External Auditors. This was after all the purpose behind the creation of the present panel, as indicated by the Secretary-General on page 2 of A/C.5/L.902.

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My delegation would also like to state that we appreciate the Panel's reservations with regard to rotational auditing. We believe that the efficiency of audit procedures is of the utmost importance and would not wish to risk the excellent reputation of the external auditors in this regard for the sake of rotational audit, especially when, as the Secretary-General indicates in paragraphs 24-5 of his report, rotational audit is already present to some degree under existing arrangements.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we were pleased to note that the Joint Panel is fully conscious of the importance of developing a harmonious and effective relationship with the Joint Inspection Unit and that, accordingly, the Panel proposes that the heads of the two bodies should meet to discuss and define the methods and procedures by which they will carry out their respective work. We are confident that the Panel of External Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit will develop a harmonious relationship which will prove to be mutually advantageous and accordingly of advantage to the United Nations family as a whole.

1. The first part of the report is a general introduction to the subject of the study. It discusses the importance of the study and the objectives of the research. It also provides a brief overview of the methodology used in the study.

2. The second part of the report is a detailed description of the methodology used in the study. It discusses the data collection methods, the sample size, and the statistical analysis techniques used.

3. The third part of the report is a discussion of the results of the study. It discusses the findings of the study and their implications for the field of study.