

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
(FIFTEENTH SESSION)

RELEASE ON DELIVERY

PRESS RELEASE NO. 6  
October 14, 1960

Press Office  
750 Third Avenue  
Yukon 6-5740

Statement by Mrs. H.H. Steen, Canadian Representative  
on the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural)  
Committee, on Friday, October 14, 1960

Teaching of the Purposes and Principles,  
the Structure and Activities of the United Nations and  
its Related Agencies

Mr. Chairman:

I shall reserve my remarks on the Report of the Economic and Social Council for another time.

I have asked for the floor now because I wish to join with the other co-sponsors in introducing the draft resolution on the "Teaching of the Purposes and Principles, the Structure and Activities of the United Nations and its Related Agencies".

As this is my first intervention in this Committee, I wish to begin by adding my Delegation's congratulations to you on your election to the Chairmanship of this Committee. With your permission, I should also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the distinguished delegates of Afghanistan and New Zealand who have been elected to support you in the difficult task of guiding and recording our deliberations. If I may, I should also like to associate my delegation with all the warm words of welcome which have been expressed to the new members of our Committee.

Mr. Chairman, my Delegation was particularly pleased in reading the Report of the Economic and Social Council to learn of the progress that has been made in the teaching of the work of the United Nations and what it stands for, as brought out in detail in ECOSOC documents E/3322 and Addenda 1 to 3 prepared by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of UNESCO. The evidence that public interest in the United Nations has grown considerably in recent years and that teaching about the subject has been expanded and improved in many countries is indeed encouraging.

I wish to say immediately that the Canadian Delegation shares the Council's belief in the importance of teaching about the United Nations and its related agencies as expressed in Resolution 748 which ECOSOC unanimously adopted at its 29th Session. Each country has, of course, somewhat different constitutional and educational machinery with which to deal, and in Canada where education is the responsibility of the provincial governments, the Government of Canada promotes the teaching and understanding of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies through the encouragement of the interested voluntary organizations rather than by direct government action. Each year therefore the Canadian Government makes a financial grant to the United Nations Association in Canada to assist it in its task of informing the public of the purposes, principles and work of the United Nations generally. As this organization is the main, indeed the central one of its kind in Canada, the Canadian Government also maintains liaison with it in its many educational and information activities, often collaborating with it on occasions, such as

1952

RELEASE ON PRIORITY

1950

...

...

...

...

I have asked the Director of the Bureau of Economic Warfare to coordinate the work of the Bureau of Economic Warfare with the other agencies of the Government in the field of economic warfare.

...

...

...

United Nations Day, and providing certain information materials on Canada's role in the United Nations.

For its part, the United Nations Association in Canada, through its national branch offices, carries out a number of functions:

- (1) It distributes United Nations information publications throughout the country in the absence of a United Nations information centre in Canada;
- (2) It publishes a number of regular pamphlets such as the "Newsletter" and "World Review" designed for the public at large and also for the schools and has put out a Student Handbook called "The U.N. in Your High School";
- (3) It carries on a number of miscellaneous activities, such as the organization of Student U.N. Clubs, Model U.N. Assemblies, university and school seminars, speaking tours, and so on;
- (4) It maintains liaison with the Canadian Government in its information activities generally, and collaborates closely with the UNICEF and UNESCO offices in Canada;
- (5) It also works with national and provincial educational offices. This is an important and developing field and the organization has tried to provide information materials particularly suitable for school use. In so far as its resources permit, it has also established regional officers to develop educational programmes in support of the United Nations in both the official languages.

Document E/3322, the Report on the Teaching of the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations, gives additional information on the work being done in Canada in disseminating knowledge about the United Nations.

In Canada the work of an organization such as the United Nations Association is very important in promoting an understanding of the United Nations and we, of course, are anxious that such voluntary organizations receive as much support as possible from the information services of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies within their budgetary limits.

While the United Nations can look with great satisfaction at what has already been done to encourage the teaching about the United Nations idea in member countries, the report on the subject has drawn our attention to the fact that much still remains to be done, particularly in respect of teacher-training and the supply of teaching materials in various languages and for various age levels. Resolution 748 (XXIX) of the Economic and Social Council gives evidence of the Council's active concern with meeting these needs and deserves our endorsement.

In continuing our efforts to promote the principles and purposes of the United Nations, we are honoured to sponsor, along with nine other delegations representing a wide range of cultures a draft resolution commending the Economic and Social Council for the action which it has taken in encouraging the development of facilities for teaching about the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies. It is our belief that a re-affirmation at this session of the General Assembly's belief in the value of this work is particularly timely since

Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is arranged in several paragraphs and appears to be a formal document or report.

the size and composition of United Nations membership has changed so greatly since the Assembly last expressed itself on this subject. My Delegation hopes, therefore, that the Third Committee will endorse the draft resolution which has been put forward by the Delegations of Afghanistan, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Costa Rica, Ghana, Japan, The Netherlands, New Zealand and Sudan.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

