

Statement No. 61

October 30, 1967

Text of statement made in the Second Committee by the Canadian representative, Mr. Bruce Rankin, on Operational Activities for Development (Item 46), October 30, 1967.

It is always a great source of satisfaction for Canada to participate in the annual discussions in this Committee of operational activities for development and, more specifically, the United Nations Development Programme and the Regular Programme of Technical Assistance. For us and, indeed, I am sure for all countries here represented, it is abundantly clear that these efforts are resulting in tangible progress. This surely is an outstanding example of the translation of Ideas, as formulated by some of us and our predecessors in these very halls, into action which is both tangible and consistently worth while.

We welcome the statements of the distinguished United Nations Commissioner for Technical Assistance (on Oct. 27) and of the Administrator of the Development Programme and senior UNDP staff members (on Oct. 30) since they have provided admirable introductions to the item now under consideration.

There have already been several opportunities during 1967 to make statements giving Canada's appraisal of the performance of the United Nations Development Programme and the Regular Programme. Since our position has already been stated--and in a word it is one of staunch support for the UNDP in its present form--I will try not to be repetitive now. I wish only to make a couple of points which we consider to be of importance in the context of any discussion regarding the UNDP and the regular programme of technical assistance.

The two reports before us, those of the third and fourth sessions of the Governing Council, are encouraging. We see a picture of progress already made and of promise for the future. 1967 has been a year in which the benefits of the merger of the Special Fund and EPTA components have been increasingly felt. This is reflected not only in the reports and the continuing high quality of the projects, but in the enthusiasm and competence of those in the UNDP headquarters who are charged with the responsibility of carrying out the management and operational duties of the Programme. 1967 was also a year in which one of the ultimate objectives of the United Nations Development Programme--that of substantial follow-up investment, both from private and public sources--began to be realized. We are informed that the total figure



now exceeds \$1.9 billion. Although capital investment of this magnitude is gratifying, we would hope, in the future, to see yet more effort made in the way of publicity and information to draw the attention of capital suppliers, including private investors, to opportunities uncovered by UNDP pre-investment studies.

Most of us here recently attended the UNDP Pledging Conference held on October 9th. We now know that the total amount pledged to the UNDP for 1968 is somewhere in the region of \$185 million which, although in itself a large figure and an improvement of some 7% over 1967 pledges, nevertheless falls short of the current annual target of \$200 million. Since the demonstrated performance of the UNDP is so favourably known and the needs of the low-income countries so great, we hope that very soon there will be major efforts to raise significantly the level of resources made available to the UNDP.

My Government regards the new programming procedures of the Technical Assistance component as being of great importance in improving the flexibility and effectiveness of the UNDP's total programme. Accordingly, we are ready to support the resolution unanimously recommended to us by the fourth session of the Governing Council. Another aspect of UNDP operations which warrants comment is that of the growing role of the UNDP Resident Representative in the field. Earlier this year, we welcomed the incorporation of FAO country representatives as agricultural advisers within the office of the UNDP Resident Representative. Last month we were gratified by the announcement that UNIDO field representatives would soon be assigned to certain of the offices of Resident Representatives. We look forward to further coordination of agency activities by means such as this.

Canada has a large and rapidly-increasing bilateral aid programme. It is our intention to coordinate closely our own programme with that of major international assistance programmes. To this end, we meet frequently with the UNDP and are generally increasing our contacts with it, both at headquarters and the field level. We believe this close liaison must be maintained in order to rationalize fully international aid efforts and to achieve the maximum with the limited funds available.

To conclude, I wish merely to state again that Canada supports the very important work of both the United Nations Development Programme and the Regular Programme, and looks forward to their increasing achievements in the future.

