CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement No. 41

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Text of 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 United Nations and the Specialized Agencies" on Friday, Oct. 13, 1967.

My delegation had been looking forward with some anticipation to the Secretary-General's report on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies. Canada was a member of the Committee, and a co-sponsor of the Resolution which adopted the Report of the Committee, and we were, like many countries, both a strong supporter of its work and a strong believer in its recommendations. While we would like to commend the Secretary-General and the Specialized Agencies for the steps they have taken to implement many of the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations, in all honesty, we are forced to admit that the Secretary-General's latest report on Implementation (A/6803) does not live up to our expectations.

The Canadian delegation would like to associate itself with the remarks made by the Advisory Committee in their report on this item (Document A/6853, paragraph 4), and I quote:

> "The report is too condensed to provide a reliable indication of either the consideration which individual agencies have given to the recommendations or of the manner in which they have resolved or proposed to resolve several questions."

We also agree with the Advisory Committee when they go on to recommend that a more detailed description of the state of implementation of the recommendations should be provided in the Secretary-General's next report to the General Assembly.

We had hoped that the 42nd Session of the Economic and Social Council would be provided with a report on implementation of those recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee related to the United Nations itself and that the 43rd Session would be provided with a report on recommendations related to the agencies and requiring inter-agency action.

However, no report was available for the 42nd Session and the report to the 43rd Session of the Economic and Social Council (E/4391) only covered implementation in certain specific areas in the United Nations itself.

In our view, neither that report nor this latest general document, A/6803, has really provided sufficient details to enable member states to assess accurately the extent to which the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee have or are being implemented. We are pleased, of course, at indications in these reports that progress is being made in implementing certain of the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations; for example the recommendation pertaining to the establishment of the Joint Inspection Unit. However, we are unhappy with the lack of information which has been provided in each of these reports on certain subjects. We feel, therefore, that after being provided with two rather brief and incomplete reports on implementation, member states are now entitled to a full report from the Secretary-General, covering in detail the progress made with regard to all recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee.

We are particularly concerned to have more details on the implementation throughout the whole of the United Nations system of the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations with regard to such vital subjects as coordination, evaluation and long-term programme planning. The Secretary-General commented briefly on the position of these three subjects within the United Nations itself in his report to the 43rd Session of the Economic and Social Council. In our view, his report indicated that there is still a long way to go in these important fields and we, therefore, wish to have much fuller details on implementation in the next report.

With respect to long-term planning, for example, the Secretary-General indicated in paragraphs 13-17 of his report to the 43rd session of the Economic and Social Council (E/4391) that long-term planning had been introduced to a greater or lesser extent in the fields of statistical services, population programmes and social development. However, there are other fields in which long-term planning is urgently required, but where it does not appear to exist, including natural resources, human rights and transport and communications. There are other areas where long-term planning is not yet present, but where it could be introduced relatively easily, including public administration, fiscal and financial questions and the international control of narcotic drugs. We would hope, therefore, in the Secretary-General's next report to receive details on progress made in extending long-term planning in the United Nations to these other fields. We would hope also to receive details on the extent to which long-term planning has been introduced in the agencies.

It is not our intention to make an all-inclusive statement on this item. However, I would like to discuss several areas where we would hope that the Specialized Agencies would be able to supply the Secretary-General with additional information for his next report on Implementation.

Paragraph 32 of the Ad Hoc Committee's Report makes specific recommendations with regard to the provision of supplementary budgetary information. My delegation feels it would be highly desirable if the Secretary-General could in his next report indicate the extent to which each Specialized Agencies has been able to implement each specific recommendation in paragraph 32.

Paragraph 34 asks for reports on budget performance from the heads of all organizations. The Secretary-General reports that the information provided on budget performance is to be found for the most part throughout the various financial reports of the Agencies. Our delegation does not feel that this is sufficient and would like to see a specific report on budget performance presented each year by each Agency. We would welcome a more complete description of their actions in this regard.

The recommendation in paragraph 48 of the Ad Hoc Committee's report concerns organizations which credit miscellaneous income to the Working Capital Fund rather than paying such income to the General Fund. My delegation would like a fuller report on the action taken by the Agencies which are not already complying with this recommendation.

In paragraph 52 the Ad Hoc Committee states that the United Nations Organizations should to the extent possible standardize their financial regulations. We note from the Secretary-General's report on Implementation (A/6803) that the implementation of this recommendation requires a decision by the executive and/or legislative body of each United Nations Organization but the report does not tell us how much consideration is being given by the various United Nations Organizations to the standardization of financial regulations. We might add that we feel the Administrative Committee on Coordination or one of its constituent parts may be the appropriate forum for discussing standardization, if this is not already taking place.

In paragraph 104, Section D, the Ad Hoc Committee states that in the budgets of the Organizations of the United Nations family the costs of conferences and meetings should be the subject of a special line in the budget showing the expenditures directly attributable to conferences and meetings and of an annex containing an estimate of the total expenditure pertaining directly and indirectly to conferences and meetings.

Although our Delegation recognizes the difficulties inherent in identifying the various direct and indirect costs involved in conferences, we feel that in the light of the problems involved in an ever expanding conference programme, it would be most advantageous for delegations to have separate cost estimates for conferences. The Secretary-General has drawn attention to the need for a definition of "indirect costs of meetings". We feel that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should perhaps make recommendations on a possible definition of these costs for consideration by the Committee on Conferences.

We appreciate the extra effort which will be required by the Secretariat in order to produce a more extensive report on implementation of the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations. We recognize the problems involved in asking the various agencies to donate their time to supplying additional information. However, my delegation feels that as time passes it becomes increasingly important to have a full picture of the degree to which the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee have been implemented. We therefore look forward to fuller reports on implementation from the Secretary-General. We feel it is important that the Economic and Social Council and the Advisory Committee be kept informed in the months ahead of the progress made in implementation. We would be interested in joining with other member states in requesting a new and more detailed report from the Secretary-General.

Thank you.