CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement No. 64

November 1, 1967

REPORT OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Statement made by the Canadian Representative, Mr. Bruce Rankin, in the Economic and Social Council on Wednesday, November 1, 1967.

We welcome here today the distinguished Secretary-General of UNCTAD to whose statement we have listened with great interest. I am aware of the general desire to avoid the reproduction of oral statements since the burden of translating and printing such statements is increasingly heavy. I should like to propose, however, that we ask the Secretary-General to arrange for the circulation of Dr. Prebisch's statement.

A Canadian delegation participated actively in the fifth session of the Trade and Development Board which forms the subject of the third annual report of the Board in document E/4434. Canadian ideas and views on the subjects discussed by the Board have been stated at the Board session. Furthermore, there will be an opportunity in a few days' time in the General Assembly to outline again our thoughts about the approach we believe should be taken by UNCTAD during the two months or so that remain before the opening of the Second Conference.

The preparations for the second Conference were naturally the main preoccupation of the Board at its fifth session. In addition to furthering those complex preparations, the Board did, however, also touch on two subjects of particular interest to this Council. I refer to questions of coordination and cooperation between UNCTAD and various international agencies and organizations with responsibilities which in part relate, to varying degrees, to international trade.

Two such questions of coordination were discussed at the fifth session of the Board; cooperation with other international bodies in the convening of meetings to discuss trading problems of specific commodities and cooperation between the GATT and UNCTAD to form a joint export promotion centre. Both these questions received considerable attention by the Trade and Development Board. It is, accordingly, unnecessary for me to say anything more about them here

than in both these fields, commodity trade and export promotion, many more benefits will accrue to the developing countries if we always keep in mind the valuable contribution other organizations such as the regional economic commissions, can make in cooperation with UNCTAD. Various commodity councils and other organizations can play important roles in our common search for stable and remunerative prices for commodities. It was with these considerations in mind that the Canadian delegation to the fifth session of the Board supported resolution 36(V) on coordination of the activities of the bodies dealing with problems of commodity trade.

The GATT International Trade Centre, which makes its services available to all developing countries, whether or not they are Contracting Parties, will provide an admirable basis for an expanded and joint effort of the GATT and UNCTAD working together in this most important field of export promotion. The Canadian delegation joined in the welcome the Board gave to the idea of a joint centre and its decision to endorse--I quote from paragraph 211 of the report of the fifth session of the Board:

> "the proposal by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and by the Director-General of GATT to establish a joint international trade centre within the United Nations Export Promotion Programme and looked forward to early decisions by the appropriate bodies concerning its implementation in the light of further information to be submitted by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and by the Director-General of GATT on some aspects of the proposal."

The Canadian Government looks forward to the early examination of detailed proposals concerning administrative and financing arrangements for the joint centre which are to be submitted by both secretariats.

We hope that when the second Conference begins in New Delhi in February the joint centre will be well on the way to becoming a reality, capable of playing a central role in the wider export promotion effort of the United Nations as a whole.