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ITEM 24: Report of the Preparatory Committee on the International  
Cooperation Year.

Statement by H.E. Mr. Paul Tremblay  
Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations  
November 20, 1963.

Mr. President,

Last year a number of delegations, including my own, cosponsored a resolution which established a Preparatory Committee to consider the possibility of designating 1965 as a year of international cooperation. Canada is gratified that the Preparatory Committee has recommended that 1965 should be designated as International Cooperation Year.

My delegation believes that much practical value can be gained from devoting a year to the promotion of international cooperation. One of the characteristics of the twentieth century has been the enormous advance in the speed of communications. The world has suddenly grown small. It is now necessary for each of us to take account of developments even in countries on the other side of the globe. Moreover, newspapers, the radio and television report events around the world almost as they happen. The pressure of the press, of legislatures and of public opinion oblige our governments to take positions. As never before in history, we are all involved in each others affairs.

Coinciding with this development has been the remarkable increase in the scale of governmental activities. To the common man these increasingly large administrations seem to be rather impersonal. With industrialization and urbanization and now with automation, people feel themselves in the grip of uncontrollable man-made forces which determine their destinies.

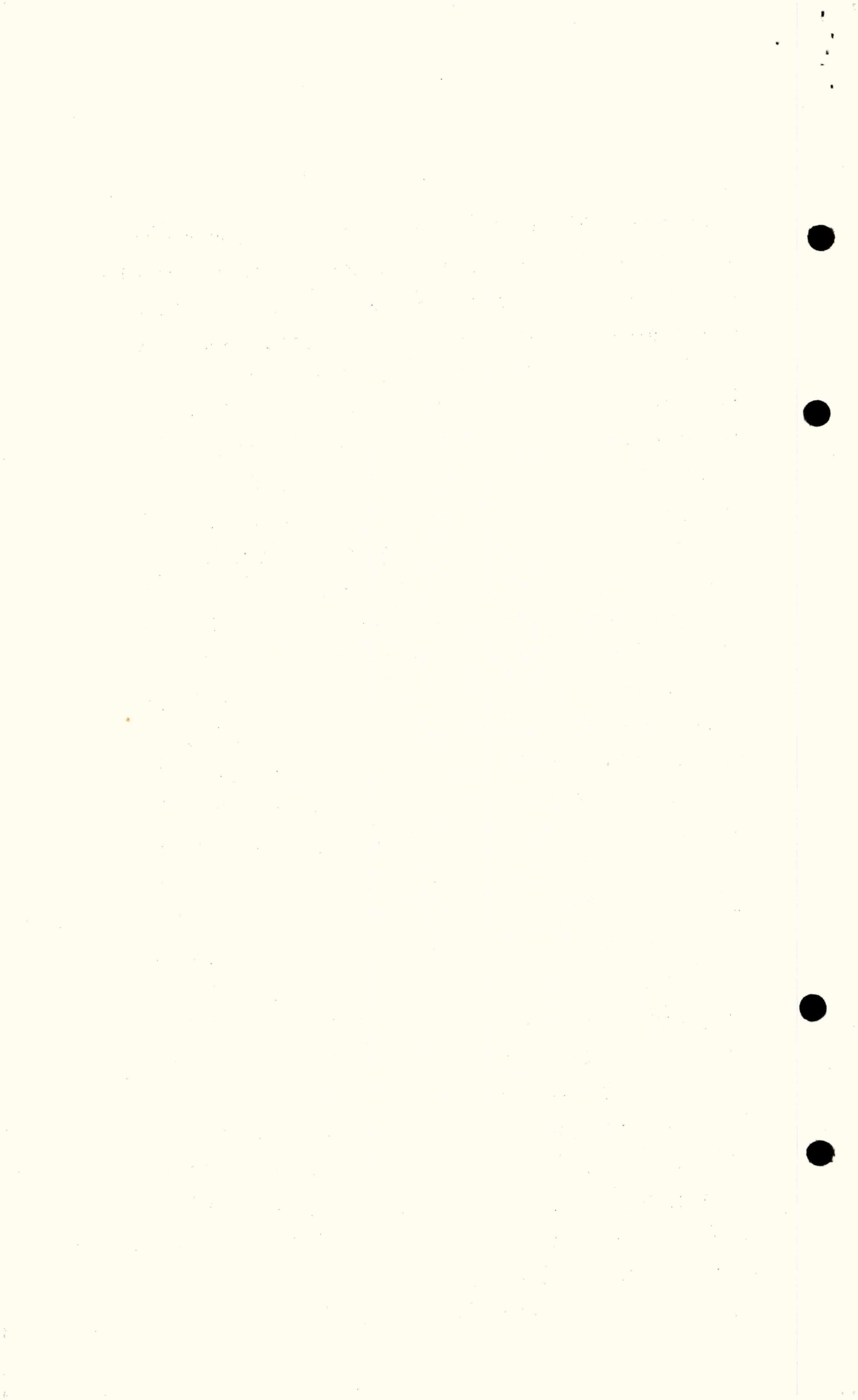
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The conjunction of these two developments is particularly striking in the field of international affairs. People are urged daily by the press, radio and television to form opinions, to hold views, in other words to take a personal interest in world affairs. But it is difficult for most people to find an appropriate outlet for this interest once it has been created. In my own country, for example, there is a rapidly growing interest in international affairs, and a desire on the part of many Canadians to become involved in some way in helping to overcome the many problems which face the world.

It is against this background that my delegation welcomes the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee that 1965 be designated as International Cooperation Year. We believe that this year should enable individuals and groups in Canada and elsewhere who are engaged in cooperating with similar individuals and groups in other countries to gain increasing recognition and public support for their work. This should permit them to consolidate or expand their existing activities, and perhaps to develop new activities. As a result of International Cooperation Year comparable organizations in different countries which are not now in contact should be able to enter into fruitful relations to their mutual benefit. The Year might also lead, through international assistance and encouragement, to the establishment of new voluntary organizations in countries where they do not now exist, which could then participate in useful cooperation with existing organizations in other countries.

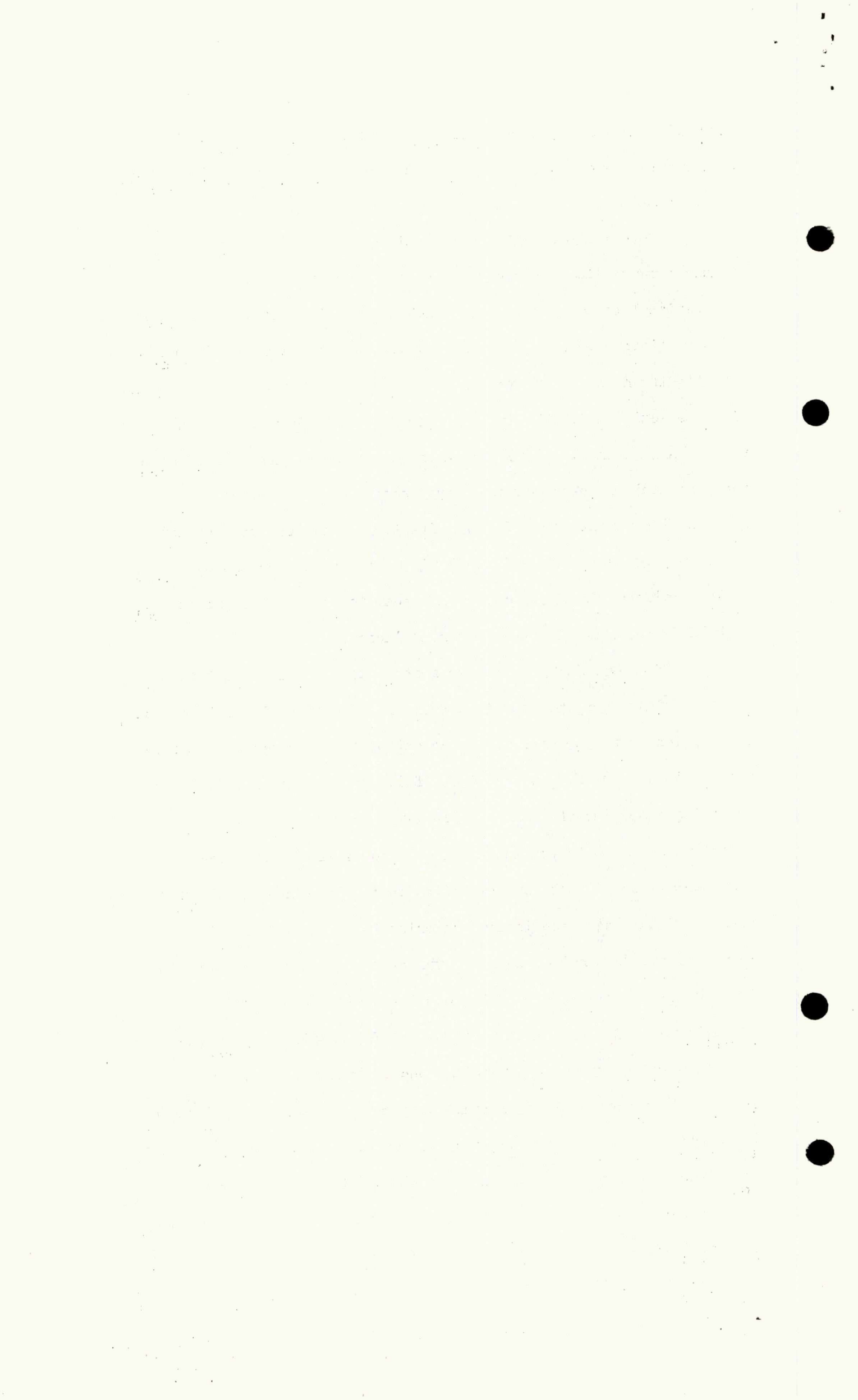
It will be apparent that my delegation is attracted by International Cooperation Year because it offers an opportunity to men and women the world over to participate personally in direct cooperative activities. Needless to say we do not think that International Cooperation Year is without significance for governments, but in countries such as Canada, many functions are carried on by voluntary organizations which in other societies are conducted by



governments or quasi-governmental organizations. Obviously the relevance of International Cooperation Year to governments will depend on the nature of their societies.

Canada expects that International Cooperation Year will stimulate a multitude of personal and group activities in the international field - activities which should give increased meaning and significance to each group involved. But International Cooperation Year itself should be greater and more significant than the sum of these discrete activities. The analogy with a symphony has some explanatory value. A symphony is played by an orchestra comprising usually more than one hundred instruments. Played separately, the notes scored for each instrument create little effect. Played together the net effect may be sublime. While each single act of cooperation generated by International Cooperation Year may seem to be of insignificant value, we believe the sum total could be most impressive.

It may be of interest to members if I mention something of the preliminary preparations in Canada in connection with International Cooperation Year. As soon as the report of the Preparatory Committee was published, the U.N. Association of Canada took the initiative of convening a meeting of national voluntary organizations having a potential interest in the International Cooperation Year. The representatives of these organizations in turn appointed an Interim Steering Committee which is now exploring the implications of International Cooperation Year for voluntary organizations in Canada. It is possible that this Steering Committee will recommend the establishment of a Canadian Committee for International Cooperation Year open to all voluntary organizations in Canada which have an interest in promoting International Cooperation Year. It will be for the Canadian Committee to decide how to conduct its activities. As a committee formed by voluntary organizations, it will be completely independent. It is to be assumed that its principal function will be to coordinate the activities of the constituent organizations rather than itself to initiate activities. A possible exception might be the Committee's role in publicizing International Cooperation Year in Canada.



My delegation believes that publicity will be a particularly important element of International Cooperation Year. Since one of the aims of the year is to counteract the impression that the world is dominated by conflict - an impression to a considerable extent stimulated by publicity media - this can be accomplished only by encouraging the same publicity media to focus their attention and that of their readers and audiences on world cooperation. Naturally, the U.N. will itself play a role in publicizing the International Cooperation Year through facilities at Headquarters and through U.N. information offices. However, the major publicity will have to be generated nationally. The role of governments in generating publicity will vary from country to country, depending on local factors. In many countries, including Canada, the power of governments to arrange for publicity is strictly limited. This is why my delegation welcomes the suggestion of the Preparatory Committee that the Year should be conceived of in a way which would generate public interest in concrete aspects of international cooperation. We are particularly attracted by the suggestion that different months should be given over to cooperation in specific fields such as public health, welfare, food, education, etc. Undoubtedly, a great deal of attention will have to be given by the new committee to the development of this idea so that all manifestations of international cooperation will be comprehended. We think that in Canada, and in countries having a similar organization of the press and radio, this approach would encourage the development of an interest by a publicity media which would be sustained throughout the whole year. We would hope that newspapers and radio and television stations throughout the country would be attracted by the possibility of having a regular article or programme which would feature the activities of groups or individuals in the community served by that station or newspaper in the international cooperation field designated for the month in question.





We feel that this idea would be attractive also to voluntary organizations. It would give them an opportunity to benefit from the publicity which would be generated by International Cooperation Year by emphasizing their activities in the community or in the country as a whole.

The Canadian Delegation has carefully read the report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Cooperation Year. It is in full agreement with its recommendations, including the activities which it suggested might be undertaken by the United Nations. We assume that under the guidance of the Committee proposed in draft resolution L/433 the Secretariat will make all necessary preparations for carrying out these suggested activities.

The Canadian Delegation supports the draft resolution cosponsored by six delegations and trusts that the General Assembly will approve it unanimously.

