

Text of Statement on UNITAR delivered in the Second Committee by the Canadian Representative, Miss Margaret Meagher, on November 17, 1965.

Mr. Chairman, I should like to begin by welcoming the very informative report which the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research has given us this afternoon. Canada as one of the co-sponsors of the resolutions which resulted in the setting up of a UNITAR is very pleased with the progress the Institute has made since its establishment in March of this year.

Financial contributions have been pledged or received from over sixty governments and foundations to the extent of over \$5 million. These initial contributions are gratifying but still inadequate, considering the needs of this fledgling institute which cannot fulfill the aims designated for it by the Assembly without large additional contributions, both public and private. My delegation hopes that further inducement to contribute will now be felt as a result of the establishment by UNITAR of its work programme.

The Canadian delegation is pleased to see that the initial work programme of UNITAR takes into account the principal aims and objectives enunciated by the Secretary-General in his statement before the First Session of the Board of Trustees on March 23 of this year, when he said, "The purpose of the Institute is to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations in pursuing its two overriding objectives—the maintenance of peace and security and the promotion of economic and social development." It is with these words of the Secretary-General in mind that the Canadian delegation would like to make a few remarks about the work programme and the administration of the Institute.

We endorse the proposals of the Board of Trustees, concerning the initial work programme of the Institute particularly the transfer to it of existing United Nations group programmes and the training arrangements for assistant resident representatives. The pilot project on evaluation, a report of which is now in the process of being produced is of special interest to Canada since we hope that evaluation will become a permanent aspect of United Nations Technical Assistance Projects. In the initial stages of this important new aspect of United Nations work, the role of UNITAR can be of considerable importance.

We also welcome the emphasis the Board of Trustees has given to the inclusion of peace-keeping research in the Institute's activities. In our view it should be very helpful to have a focal point of co-ordination for peace-keeping research now conducted by various private agencies.

Another point to which we attach particular importance is the right of the Board of Trustees, in consultation with the Secretary-General, to take final decisions on the work programme of UNITAR. We would caution against the evolution of too firm control over the Institute's activities by ECOSOC and the General Assembly. On a related point, we hope that the Institute would not be regarded as a research tool of the Assembly, the Council or the subsidiaries of either. Undoubtedly, sound proposals for the UNITAR work programme will emanate from these bodies but we believe they should come forward as suggestions rather than as instructions to assist the Board of Trustees in reaching its decisions on the work programme of the Institute.



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In short, we hold the view that UNITAR must have a large measure of autonomy if it is to have the flexibility for quick action recommended by the Secretary-General in his statement of last March.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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