

External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

No. 53/32 Continuation on a Permanent Basis of
the United Nations International
Children's Emergency Fund

Statement by Mr. Alcide Cote, M.P., made on October 6, 1953, in a plenary meeting of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly. (Agenda Item 29)

In the view of the Canadian delegation, the question now before the General Assembly is of great importance. It is a question to which my country attaches particular significance. In fact, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund constitutes one of the greatest achievements of the United Nations. First of all, this initiative has received the almost unanimous support of the Members, and this unanimity testifies not only to the need of the United Nations as such, but also testifies to the practical and concrete role it can play.

From the list of contributing governments, we can see that in this project the number of contributors grows in number every year. We can also see the way in which the beneficiary countries contributed in services or in kind to the work of the Fund in their country, and this has established itself as an efficient practice because the counterpart fund of the beneficiary countries has grown and increased the assistance given by the Fund. We believe this is one of the important principles which lay at the basis of the efficient functioning of the Fund, one which will ensure the continuity of the programmes when the Fund is no longer able to execute them. It is also possible to see the human solidarity contained in such an effort.

In reading the last report of the Economic and Social Council dealing with the various services of the Fund, we could not help being impressed by the scope and the efficiency of the programme. It would take too much time to enumerate the countries which benefited from the Fund, especially the under-developed countries, which received assistance in various forms, thanks to the long-term programme which has been drawn up by UNICEF.

All countries of the world, without distinction as to race colour and creed are to be found in this list which establishes the universal scope and importance of the Fund. The immediate beneficiaries of this assistance are those who are closest to us; the children. They are the ones who will build for us the world of tomorrow. We as a delegation see in this initiative, in this project, one which might best establish a better balance between countries. Those who receive assistance from the United Nations today -- and this covers about 60 million people --

will be tomorrow those who will support the United Nations, because they will have known what the United Nations has done for them, and how it has improved their life. Through this kind of project we will see the unification of nations in spirit and in body.

On behalf of my delegation and my country I should like to state that we are in favour of this undertaking which has rallied behind it my Government and my people. We have expressed our admiration for the project without any reservations. We have lauded the magnificent work of the United Nations through this special Fund. I should like to stress here a fact which underlines the unanimity which we feel. This can be seen from the contribution of the population itself which, over the last few years, has reached the figure of over one million dollars, and this can also be seen by the contribution of \$8 million to the Fund by the Canadian Government.

May I be permitted to say a few words now with regard to the question which is before us. First of all, we are called upon to decide about the future functioning of the Fund. The Fund was established in 1946, pursuant to a unanimous resolution of the United Nations General Assembly calling for assistance to children of war-devastated countries. Of course this called for a new orientation and, in 1950, pursuant to a special resolution of the General Assembly, UNICEF was given a three-year lease which was to be terminated on 31 December 1953. It was called upon to conclude the long-term programme dealing with children, especially in under-developed countries in Africa, in Asia, in South America and in Europe in the region of the Mediterranean Near East.

The question therefore seems to be as follows: should we have a specific institution such as UNICEF within the framework of the United Nations and without limitation as to time? This question was studied by the Economic and Social Council at its last session and approval was given to this idea.

We believe that the tasks already achieved by UNICEF with so much success justify our support in asking for its continuation. The experience of the last three years has shown that UNICEF has worked, in the establishment and implementation of its programmes, in close co-operation with the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations so as to prevent any kind of overlapping. The delegation of Canada believes that not only is it advantageous for UNICEF to establish its programmes bearing in mind the activities of other Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, but that such concerted action is indispensable to the full efficiency of the United Nations endeavours.

We formulate the wish that the co-operation will become even more close, if possible, because it will certainly give rise to greater efficiency in the economic and social endeavours undertaken by the United Nations, and it will result in economy with regard to financial resources and efforts. That is why the delegation of Canada is happy to join with other countries which represent different parts of the world in supporting a resolution calling for the

continued existence of UNICEF in conformity with the provisions which have been the basis for the Fund's operations during the last three years.

As I have already stated, Canada has contributed financially to the Fund. The Canadian Government is disposed to continue its financial support. However, we should like to state before the General Assembly that the total contribution on the part of Canada for the next year will be established bearing in mind the contributions of other countries. We hope that the UNICEF Appeal will be heard throughout the world and will result in growing contributions from an ever-increasing number of countries.

In concluding this brief intervention, I must recall the happy coincidence which Mme. Pandit put before us, a coincidence which should push us all toward a unanimous vote on the resolution before the General Assembly. I refer to the initiative undertaken by the international Union which called for a special UNICEF day. We feel that this would be a proper and concrete gesture on our part, and it would indicate our confidence in the future which these children hold in their hands.



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