



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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UNESCO COMES OF AGE

An address to the plenary meeting of the eleventh session of the UNESCO General Conference on November 22, 1960, by Mr. Marcel Cadieux, leader of the Canadian delegation.

... It gives me great pleasure to be able to report to this conference that during these last two years there has been a very considerable increase in interest and in activity in Canada in UNESCO affairs. The Canadian National Commission for UNESCO, created at the end of 1957, has during this interval been briskly getting on with its important tasks of collaborating with UNESCO, and in bringing the work of the organization to the attention of the appropriate Canadian institutions and organizations, and to the interest of the Canadian public generally. The Canadian National Commission for UNESCO has been particularly successful in organizing the many and varied resources in Canada, whether governmental or private, to advance the purposes of UNESCO's East-West major project - the mutual appreciation of Eastern and Western cultural values. For example, the co-operation of the National Film Board and of the Canadian Film Institute was secured to compile a catalogue of films on Asia available in Canada; and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has been active in producing special radio projects on this theme. The National Gallery of Canada and other organizations have undertaken special activities on the East-West theme, and the National Commission has sponsored a variety of conferences which we think have successfully stimulated a wide Canadian interest in this important part of UNESCO's programme.

Canadian Programme

We are informed that there has been a steady increase in Canada in sales of and in subscriptions to UNESCO publications. Over the last two years, moreover, Canada has profited from a number of important international meetings organized or sponsored by UNESCO. The Canadian Commission has also developed close relations with other national commissions throughout the world, and Canada has continued its important duty in providing facilities for the reception and the training of UNESCO fellows from other countries.

Adult Education Conference

In August of 1960, Canada was honoured and happy to serve as the host country to the World Conference on Adult Education, a conference which, perhaps more than any other single factor, brought to the attention of Canadian citizens the nature and quality of UNESCO's responsibilities. This conference in Montreal, which we are most happy to have been assured was highly successful, aroused great interest not only among the many organizations in Canada concerned with adult education; the progress of the conference also received widespread and intelligent notice in the Canadian press, and brought an important part of the work of UNESCO to the interest and notice of the Canadian public which, from this educational conference, received itself a very helpful education in the work and in the objectives of UNESCO. Finally, this last summer, also, a Canadian permanent delegation was appointed to UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

Fifteen Years of UNESCO

Canada in 1945 was one of the 47 founder states of UNESCO and has been, over the years, a strong supporter of UNESCO's activities and purposes. Reasons which led Canada to the conviction that the work of UNESCO was of the greatest importance are still valid 15 years later, and indeed they now carry much more weight. UNESCO, in 1960, is immeasurably stronger than it was 15 years ago; stronger in resources, in membership, of course, and, what is of great importance, stronger in experience and confidence. Over these years Canada has been by no means a purely passive or uncritical advocate of UNESCO's activities. With other member countries, we have had from time to time apprehensions that the necessarily limited resources of UNESCO were in some danger of being spread over too many unrelated activities, and that on occasion the programmes of UNESCO appeared to be unduly ambitious in relation to the financial and not infrequently to the human resources available for projects which may have seemed desirable in themselves, but threw too great a weight of responsibility and of labour upon the growing organization. It is, of course, the duty of a god-parent to keep a careful eye upon his god-child; and this we have done always, I trust, in a spirit not of unhelpful criticism, but rather of affectionate but prudent goodwill.

Budgetary Matters

At the appropriate time, the Canadian delegation will have something to say in detail about the proposed programme and budget under items 15, 16 and 17 of the agenda. While we have been able to support the U.S. proposal as to the provisional budget level, we expect that the detailed examination which is to be carried out in the course of this conference will show that a serious effort has been made to eliminate projects of doubtful value and urgency, and that the proposed increase in staff and programme expenditures are justified.

Canadian delegations over the years have consistently urged upon UNESCO the necessity of concentrating its resources, of establishing firm and workable priorities for programmes, and of putting them into effect with a reasonable regard for economy. In view of the very considerable resources which it seems likely will be made available to UNESCO through the Special Fund and through the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, we trust that there may be found considerable support for the view that the technical assistance programmes of UNESCO should now be considered with the greatest care, so that these principles of concentration, of priorities, and of economy may be held in due regard.

Cause for Concern

I must confess that we find it somewhat disturbing to know that the various Specialized Agencies which draw very substantially from the Special Fund and from the Expanded Programme should be at the same time financing a growing number of technical assistance programmes through their own budgets. What gives Canada, and this delegation in particular, some concern has been the consistent increases in budgets of the Specialized Agencies while at the same time Canada, and other countries of course, have been increasing substantially their contributions to the Special Fund, the Expanded Programme and to other centralized agencies. For example, the Canadian subscriptions to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund were recently more than doubled. The Canadian Parliament has approved Canadian membership in the International Development Association to provide capital to the less-developed countries. Canada will subscribe \$37.85 million to the International Development Association; and Canada is also contributing \$2 million, as the fifth largest contributor to the Special Fund, and a further \$2 million to the Expanded Programme as the third largest contributor. Continued support by governments for United Nations aid programmes will depend to an important extent on the ability of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies to administer the funds made available to them in a rational and efficient way. It is the Canadian view that a rational and efficient system of administration is more likely to be developed if the aid funds made available to the United Nations are channeled through centralized agencies.

Although, therefore, the Canadian delegation supports the provisional budget level approved by the conference we, and no doubt many others, propose to examine both in detail and in principle certain of the proposals which have been laid before us. It is certainly true that the great majority of UNESCO's proposals have commended and do commend themselves to the approval of the Canadian Government. This does not alter the fact that, with steadily increasing commitments to United Nations funds and to the budgets of Specialized Agencies, many national governments, including that of Canada, will have to consider very carefully their views on the most effective methods in which their funds available for international purposes can be expended.

Special Questions

In this connection, I might briefly note that, among the proposals which my delegation will wish to examine with care, are those regarding UNESCO's relations with the International Development Association and the United Nations civilian operations in the Congo. While there can be no doubt that UNESCO has an important and helpful role to play in both these fields of activity, it might be that the specific proposals which are before the conference at this time are somewhat premature. To these, as well as to other matters, my delegation will be giving attention as the conference proceeds.

UNESCO's Best Role

I have observed that the great majority of UNESCO projects commend themselves to the Canadian Government. In co-operation with the Canadian National Commission for UNESCO, we have carefully examined, as indeed have other delegations, the programme and the budget for 1961-1962. While we are in agreement with our Canadian National Commission for UNESCO that, in general, both the projects concerned and the planning for them have been clearly stated by the Director-General, we shall naturally have observations to make on a number of the projects planned for the next two years. It is our view that UNESCO plays a most helpful role when it gives assistance to international associations concerned with parts of the total areas with which UNESCO is concerned. We hope that UNESCO's relationship with such organizations as the International Association of Universities, the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession, and the World Federation of United Nations Associations will be continued and strengthened. And we are pleased to notice the Director-General's happy phrase that ". . .the whole range of the organization's administration must first be welded into a consistent whole". With this objective in mind, and armed with the excellent, if somewhat voluminous, documentation which is characteristic of this eleventh session, we are looking forward to subsequent debates with the liveliest interest and pleasure.

New Dimensions

At the National Conference of the Canadian National Commission for UNESCO, to be held in February of 1961, it is proposed to take as the general theme "New Dimensions in International Relations", with particular reference to the work of UNESCO. It seems to the Canadian delegation important to realize that these new dimensions in international relations are already apparent to us; that there has developed through UNESCO and through other international agencies a new sense of joint partnership so that no longer is the invidious distinction made between contributing and receiving nations. It is the convinced view of the Canadian delegation that we here at this conference are engaged in a joint partnership as citizens, not only of our own countries, but in a larger sense as citizens of the one world which we all must share. For our part, we welcome this

opportunity of association with all peoples of the world, all of us no doubt with somewhat special problems of our own, but all of us united in the belief that solutions to the world's problems must be the consequence of joint action, of joint discussion, of reason, of persuasion, and of a sense of world community which, it is our conviction, UNESCO of all the United Nations agencies has perhaps the greatest responsibility and the greatest opportunity to further.

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