

Mr. Chairman, Fellow Delegates, this is my first appearance at the General Assembly as Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada. Although I am not a stranger to the United Nations family -- I have been concerned with various conferences and agencies in my former capacities as Minister of Trade and Commerce and Minister of Finance, and even before I took office as a member of the Canadian Government -- I make my debut in this most important political forum as a novice among seasoned veterans.

I wish to assure you of my intention - and that of the Government I represent - to continue Canada's record of support for the United Nations.

We are meeting to consider a draft treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It is the product of prolonged and delicate deliberations in the Eighteen Nation Disarmament Committee; more particularly, it is the result of carefully negotiated agreement among the nuclear powers represented on that Committee.

Many delegations will recall the early proposal put before this Assembly, designed to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. That was the renowned "Irish Resolution" of the late fifties, which was eventually and unanimously adopted on December 4, 1961. We are all indebted to the distinguished Foreign Minister of Ireland for his foresight and fortitude in persevering in that initiative -- often in the face of formidable odds.