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CHINESE REPRESENTATION

Text of Statement to be made by the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, P.C., Q.C., M.P., on the Question of Chinese Representation, in the Plenary Session of the United Nations General Assembly, on Wednesday, November 23, 1966

Mr. President:

The issue of Chinese representation in the United Nations is again before us. It has been before us in one form or another for sixteen years. In spite of all our best efforts the UN has not yet been able to discover a way out of the impasse in which it finds itself today.

One reason why better progress has not been made is that the options we have had before us do not reflect the real nature of the problem. The real nature of the problem is that the China of today is not the China of 1945.

One of the options which has been before us would have us ignore the changes that have taken place altogether. It would have us act as if the People's Republic of China did not exist. It would have us continue to exclude from our deliberations and from the whole framework of international co-operation a government which has the capacity to influence the shape of world affairs for good or for ill.

The other option also asks us to close our eyes to a part of the reality of the Chinese situation. It would have us do so by extinguishing for all practical purposes the international personality of a government which controls the destiny of some 12 million people, a greater population than that of three-fifths of the member states of this organization.

That is why these options have not carried us forward. They do not take account of the fundamental changes which have occurred in China since the United Nations was established. They do not point to an rational solution of the problem. They do not point to a solution which is in accord with that common interest which should be the basis of a world organization.