

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(FIFTEENTH SESSION)

RELEASE ON DELIVERY

PRESS RELEASE NO. 33
December 19, 1960



Press Office
750 Third Avenue,
YU 6-5740

Statement by Mr. W.B. Nesbitt, Q.C., M.P.,
Vice-Chairman of the Canadian Delegation,
in the General Assembly on December 19, 1960

Item 85 -
The Situation in the Republic of the Congo

Mr. Chairman:

The developments of recent weeks in the Congo have been followed with serious concern in Canada, as they have in other parts of the world. As recently as December 15, the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable J.G. Diefenbaker, informed the Canadian Parliament that he considered recent developments in the Congo to be most disturbing. He gave it as the Canadian Government's view that a continuation of some present trends could only lead to more chaotic conditions in that country.

While it is difficult to see a pattern emerging in Congolese political affairs, there is one possible future course of events which, in our view, can be predicted with some confidence; that is, what the future would hold if the United Nations operations should be allowed to fail. On December 13, the Secretary-General told the Security Council what he thought might happen in such an event. He was prepared to predict the most serious consequences. It may be that a number of delegations here have arrived at similar conclusions. We are inclined to believe that such consequences could follow - and follow fairly quickly - if the present situation were not somehow corrected. This is why my Government considers that this session of the Assembly, before it recesses, should take action to give direction at this critical juncture.

The Canadian Government considers that the United Nations operations in the Congo are of a significance which goes far beyond their immediate impact on the situation in that country. On August 1, the Prime Minister of Canada, in requesting the unanimous support of the House of Commons for substantial