

C 206853

Memorandum for the Prime Minister:

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In accordance with your instructions I checked with Mr. Pearson as to your position at the meeting of the Assembly in New York and informed him of Mr. Lie's statement. Mr. Pearson thought it would be best to let the United Nations authorities know that you would be present for the first few days in order to confirm the exact situation. I have now checked through Mr. Cote, the Secretary of the Canadian delegation, who is in New York, and he has taken the matter up with Captain de Noue, who is the Chief of Protocol and Liaison for the United Nations.

Captain de Noue confirms what Mr. Lie told you and states that, for your attendance at the Assembly meetings, they would, unless you wished otherwise, normally regard you as being Chairman of the Canadian delegation during your period in New York. He added, however, that there is, at the same time, a fixed limit of five delegates and five alternate delegates that can be present from any one country at any one time. Accordingly, when you are present in the position of Chairman of the delegation, it will be necessary for one of the delegates to be regarded as an alternate delegate, and for one of the alternate delegates to be regarded as an advisor. This seems clearly to be a matter of technical procedure rather than a point of substance, and apparently the reason is that the United Nations feel that they can only limit the size of delegations through maintaining a rigid ceiling. There would, of course, be no difficulty whatever in connection with seating or attendance at the Assembly.

Captain de Noue apparently asked whether you would wish to make the opening statement on behalf of the Canadian delegation rather than have Mr. St. Laurent do this. I told Mr. Cote that I had had no guidance on this point but that I would raise it for your attention. If you wish to speak as Chairman of the Canadian delegation, the United Nations would like to have a letter from you (or from Mr. St. Laurent) informing them that you will be acting in the capacity of Chairman of the Canadian delegation in order that their technical regulations may be complied with.