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PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES - Item 99

Text of Statement on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes
To be Delivered in the Special Political Committee
by the Canadian Representative, Mr. Paul Beaulieu,
On Tuesday, December 14, 1965.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to take this opportunity to explain briefly why Canada supports the resolution. May I first commend the United Kingdom Delegation for taking this initiative which my Government believes is important and timely and which we take pleasure in co-sponsoring.

Canada has been a member of the Special Committee on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation Among States and is conscious of the significance of the principles which have been under discussion by that Committee, of which peaceful settlement of disputes is one. We are hopeful that the Special Committee will continue its work and report to the 21st Session. Nevertheless we realize that that Committee is concerned primarily with the legal aspects of principles of friendly relations and we can see merit in a separate study of the wider aspects, both legal and political, of the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes.

It is often said that the will to settle disputes peacefully is more important than the means employed and I agree that there is a point in this observation. Indeed we are under an obligation to settle our disputes peacefully by the terms of the Charter. It is equally true that goodwill requires some adequate means to express itself and that frequently the appropriate means is essential to fruitful results. In other words, will and means are inextricably linked.

It may also be said that the machinery for peaceful settlement already exists and that States have only to use it. That observation too contains a good deal of truth but my Government can see only advantage in a study which would bring this machinery once more to our attention and suggest ways of improving it or of supplementing it. We would hope in particular that the Committee of Government Representatives referred to in operative paragraph 1 of the resolution will take advantage of the vast experience accumulated by the United Nations over the past twenty years, with a view to concluding what lessons may be drawn from the work