

COMPLAINT BY BURMA

No. 5347

Text of statement made on November 5, 1953 by the Vice-chairman of the Canadian Delegation, Mr. Alcide Gode, in the First Committee of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, on agenda item 25 - Complaint by Burma regarding aggression by the Republic of China.

My Delegation supports this motion because we believe that an adjournment of this debate until after November 23 would give time for the clarification of the situation about which many delegates have indicated some doubt. The Canadian delegation has no doubts about the concrete steps being taken at the present time to implement the Assembly's resolution of last April. We welcome the very good news announced to this Committee yesterday by the distinguished representative of the United States and we accept his specific statement without reservation. The evacuation of Chinese troops from Burma is under way. A schedule involving specific numbers of troops has been started. We had originally thought that November 16 would be appropriate but we changed this to November 23 because we think that by November 23 it will undoubtedly be possible to announce the completion of initial steps which have now been started. This should clarify the situation and have an important influence upon the attitude of the delegates of this Committee to this very important problem. In this debate many delegates have indicated that they are not completely satisfied with the plans of evacuation. Some delegates feel that the proportion is too small; some have indicated that there must be greater safeguards regarding the stopping of supplies to the troops who are not evacuated. My delegation has no desire to postpone unnecessarily, or to prolong, this debate. We appreciate fully the importance of getting on with our agenda in the allotted time. We have co-operated with the Chairman in this regard and will continue to do so. In this very important matter, however, we are convinced that an adjournment for further consideration is essential before passing this item to the Plenary Session. After sufficient time has elapsed to enable the programme of evacuation to be well under way, it will be possible for us to pass this question on to the Plenary Session of the Assembly with much more satisfactory conclusions than it is possible to reach at the present time. My delegation, therefore, urges the members of this Committee to support this motion to adjourn further consideration of this question to a date not earlier than November 23, 1953. We believe that this procedure will most effectively facilitate the disposal of this item of our agenda by making prolonged debate of the item in plenary unnecessary.