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## GENERAL SURVEY

The eleventh regular session of the General Assembly, which immediately followed the first and second emergency special sessions of the Assembly, adjourned temporarily on March 8. These sessions, covering a four-month period, were the longest and perhaps the most difficult which the United Nations has experienced. The eleventh regular session authorized its President, Prince Wan Waithayakon of Thailand, to reconvene the session should it become necessary to consider again the two unfinished items on its agenda—the situation in the Middle East and the question of Hungary.

For the Canadian Delegation it was a memorable session, with grounds for satisfaction as well as grounds for apprehension. The most interesting new feature was the presence of 81 members instead of 60 at the tenth session in 1955. The number of members was expanded during the session, and Canada was happy to welcome to the Assembly five more states—Ghana, Japan, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia. Most of these new members as well as the 16 added in December 1955 made valuable contributions to the United Nations and justified the faith the Canadian Delegation had shown by sponsoring increased membership on the principle that the United Nations can serve our purposes better when it is more truly representative of the whole world as it exists. Nevertheless, there are some practical disadvantages to be faced in swelling numbers. The need for restraint on interventions, and a wider sense of responsibility for reaching practical conclusions in the least possible time, have become more than ever evident. It was inevitable that in the greater confusion of more voices the trend towards the formation of groupings on a regional or a political basis became more pronounced. It is a trend which could paralyze the Assembly if it led to the creation of rigid blocs, but it may also, as it did at the eleventh Assembly, help to produce more orderly and concise debate and more temperate resolutions.

The Canadian Delegation found itself deeply engaged in many of the most crucial issues at the Assembly. The obligation to assist in finding a solution for the Middle Eastern crisis of November 1956 was particularly painful as well as onerous, since Canada's closest allies were deeply divided over the issues. The fact that the Great Powers themselves were involved in one way or another in the major issues at the Assembly forced increasing responsibility upon the lesser powers, particularly those whose freedom for negotiation was not too greatly limited by association with blocs. The Canadian Delegation was, therefore, inevitably involved in the efforts to find reasonable answers to many problems whether these were close to, or remote from, direct Canadian interests. The Delegation worked in association with other Commonwealth countries, frequently with the Scandinavian countries, and with Japan and Norway in the important proposal for registration of nuclear tests.