



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
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STATEMENT ON DISARMAMENT

Statement made on October 22, 1954, by the Canadian Permanent Representative, Mr. David M. Johnson, in the First Committee of the ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Note: The text of the Five Power Resolution on Disarmament tabled by the Committee is given at the end of Mr. Johnson's statement.

I wish to thank you and the Committee for allowing me to speak at this time, though I had not put down my name to intervene further in the general debate. The reason why I have asked for the floor is to inform the committee of a development which will, I think, have some bearing on the course of our further deliberations.

On October 13 the Honourable Paul Martin, Minister of National Health and Welfare of Canada and Acting Chairman of the Canadian Delegation, tabled a draft resolution setting out the line of procedure and providing the framework, which seemed to us best calculated to allow detailed negotiations on disarmament to continue, after the debate in the General Assembly and this Committee had done what it could to clarify the general principles and to bring out the main areas of agreement and disagreement. Though very conscious of the all important principles in which the viewpoint of France, the United Kingdom, the United States and ourselves on the one hand, and the views of the Government of the U.S.S.R. on the other still remain divergent, we hoped that at least on this matter of the next step for continuing negotiations, we could all agree. Mr. Martin therefore appealed to the Delegations of the other four members of the Disarmament Commission's sub-committee to join with us by becoming co-sponsors of our resolution. Naturally he had given advance copies of his draft resolution to the leaders of each of these four delegations with notice of his hope that they would become co-sponsors.

We were greatly heartened that the delegations of France, the United Kingdom and the United States accepted our appeal and agreed to become co-sponsors. Though Mr. Vyshinsky, the distinguished representative of the Soviet Union, was not immediately able to agree, we were encouraged that he at once promised, on behalf of his delegation, a sympathetic study of Mr. Martin's suggestions.

As I think every delegate knows, Mr. Vyshinsky later that day handed us a list of four suggested changes in the terms of our draft resolution, and told us that if