

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(SIXTEENTH SESSION)

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Items Nos. 90 and 91 - Question of the Representation of China in the United Nations. Statement by Senator Alfred J. Brooks, P.C., Q.C., Vice-Chairman of the Canadian Delegation, in the Plenary Meeting on Friday, December 8, 1961

Mr. President,

For more than a decade the question of the representation of China has posed a dilemma for this Organization. It has provoked sharp differences of opinion in this Assembly. There is no simple solution. Had there been one, we would not still have the undecided question before us.

It is precisely because the question is so complex, and because opinions on its solution have differed so widely, that this Assembly has not previously thought it wise or timely to take a decision on the substance of the matter. Now, however, for the first time, we are concerned with the real issues. I should like to state the views of my delegation on these issues.

Let me say plainly at the outset, Mr. President, that the Canadian delegation is ready to consider carefully any proposal to settle equitably the question of Chinese representation.

I stress the word "equitably". There are those who claim that wrong has been done to one of the parties concerned. They are entitled to that opinion, but I cannot believe that any delegation in this Assembly would seriously seek to right what it considers to be one wrong by the creation of another.