

No. 54/29/UN9/6

COLLECTIVE MEASURES

Text of a statement delivered on October 29, 1954, by Mr. David M. Johnson, Canadian Representative in the First Committee of the ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, on agenda item 19 - Methods which might be used to maintain and strengthen international peace and security in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the Charter: Report of the Collective Measures Committee.

Note: The text of the resolution adopted by the Committee and the results of the voting are included at the end of the statement.

We are now, in point of time, half way through the present session of the General Assembly. Yet, as you have been reminding us, Mr. Chairman, we are far behind in our work, having completed only two items on the First Committee's agenda. I do not think any of us begrudge the time we gave to the full discussion of the disarmament question. At the same time, we must all recognize that where we can expedite our business, we should make every effort to do so.

Without belittling the importance of the present item on the report of the Collective Measures Committee, I do agree with those who have preceded me that this is one item which can reasonably be disposed of this year quickly and, I would sincerely hope, without controversy. For the fact is that nothing is being proposed at this session which has not been amply discussed and approved by the great majority at previous sessions. Indeed, a number of the points which had given rise to debate at past sessions have not been included either in the resolution of the 12 Powers or in the report of the Collective Measures Committee on which that resolution is based.

In keeping with what I have said, Mr. Chairman, I shall endeavour to save the Committee's time and my intervention will be brief.

It is true, as others have pointed out, that this year's resolution which the Canadian Delegation has been happy to co-sponsor does ask the Assembly to "note with approval" the third report of the Collective Measures Committee, whereas, in the past, Assembly resolutions (No. 703 of the Seventh Session for example) have simply taken note of the current report of the Collective Measures Committee. On the face of it, it seems as if the sponsors were asking the Assembly to go further this year than they have in the past.