

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF FORCE

Text of Statement to be made by the Canadian Representative, Mr. Paul Beaulieu, in Plenary, on Item 92: Strict Observance of the Prohibition of the Threat or Use of Force in International Relations, and of the Right of Peoples to Self-Determination, Nov. 30, 1966

The new draft resolution (A/L.501) now before the Assembly replaced three drafts (A/L.493, A/L.495 and A/L.498) introduced a few weeks ago by different groups of delegations. It hardly seems worth while to go back over the misgivings which the original drafts brought forth, both by their substance and the tone of discussions they brought about. Together with some delegations, Canada had co-sponsored a draft (A/L.498) which we had hoped would help to set this important question in proper perspective and possibly command large support.

We believe that the best outcome of our discussions would be to adopt a simple and straightforward resolution which would achieve among other objectives the two following ones:

1) Recommend that the two principles on the prohibition of the use of force and the right of self-determination be given priority treatment in the future elaboration of the principles of international law concerning friendly relations; and

2) Ask the Secretary-General to include all the records of this particular debate, together with the various proposals and suggestions that have been advanced, in the documentation that will be considered further in the study of this principle.

As you are aware, Mr. Chairman, the three groups have agreed to meet in consultation in the hope of bringing nearer their points of view. Numerous and difficult consultations held last week by the three groups have enabled us to agree on the wording now before us.

It is not my intention to comment in detail on the new draft resolution. This task has been done with authority and clarity by the Chairman of our working committee, the distinguished representative of Austria.