

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(FIFTEENTH SESSION)

RELEASE ON DELIVERY

PRESS RELEASE NO. 38
April 4, 1961

Press Office,
750 Third Avenue,
YU 6-5740

Statement by Mr. W.B. Nesbitt, Q.C., M.P.,
Vice-Chairman of the Canadian Delegation,
in the General Assembly, on April 4, 1961

The Situation in the Congo

Mr. President:

When this Assembly adjourned three months ago, it was in an atmosphere of deep concern over the course of events in the Congo. There is no need for me to review the developments of the intervening period. Some have been tragic. Some have been profoundly disquieting in their implications. Few have given much ground for satisfaction or for optimism. If there is one encouraging sign to be found, it is perhaps the evidence there has been in this debate of widespread concern to find a real and lasting solution to the problems which beset the Congo. Encouragement can be found in this fact, I believe, even though we cannot ignore, at the same time, the evidence of deep and fundamental disagreement over the direction in which any solution should be sought.

There is not, of course, just one single Congo problem. There are at least three Congo problems, and in one of these, I am happy to say, the United Nations and its agencies, with help from governments and other outside sources, have been outstandingly successful, and have earned the whole-hearted appreciation of the Congolese authorities. This is the whole field of social, economic and technical matters in which the United Nations Civilian Operations in the Congo have been functioning quietly and efficiently: bringing emergency relief, combatting famine conditions, assisting medical and health services, helping to restore communications, and co-operating in a wide variety of other