

The General Assembly

No. 53/77 U.S. Proposals on Human Rights

Text of a statement made on November 19, 1953 by Mrs. A.L. Caldwell, Canadian representative, in the Third Committee of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, on agenda item 12 - Report of the Economic and Social Council, with reference to the United States proposals on Human Rights.

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

The Canadian Delegation will be glad to support the Egyptian proposal now before us. It will abstain on the Syrian amendments, if they are put to the vote, since it does not consider it advisable, or necessary, to give such precise directives as to priority to the Human Rights Commission. This is particularly so in view of the priorities already established by the Economic and Social Council, and by this Committee, in earlier resolutions relating to the draft covenants and to self-determination.

As I said in the statement which I gave in the general debate the Government of Canada has not yet had sufficient time to give these three resolutions, which were presented to the Human Rights Commission in May of this year by Mrs. Lord, the U.S. representative, the detailed study and consideration which they undoubtedly deserve. Consequently, like most other governments, the Canadian Government was unable to send to the Secretary-General its comments on these proposals by October 1, the date requested. We agree that further time is required to enable those governments which are desirous of expressing their views, to do so. We agree also that these replies, when received, should be given consideration in the first instance by the Human Rights Commission, in order to enable that Commission to come to a decision with reference to the three proposals themselves. It is in that spirit that we shall vote for the Egyptian proposals.

Following is the text of the resolution adopted by the Assembly on November 28, 1953 by a vote of 47 in favour (including Canada), 5 against, with 6 abstentions: