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STATEMENT OF CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE
GENERAL E. L. M. BURNS,
IN THE FIRST COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT
ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1962.

Mr. Chairman,

The most urgent and important task which faces the international community today is to reach agreement on disarmament. Put in stark terms, if civilization is to survive, the nations of the world must disarm.

Present events show how real and how imminent is the possibility of nuclear war. As the Prime Minister of Canada said on November 5, "to all who know how close we were to war and what war today would mean, it is evident that the nuclear arms race must be halted. The logic of the aftermath is grim but clear and permits of no other conclusion than that if the nations of the world do not take effective steps the next crisis may not permit the world to stop short of the abyss of war".

So the crisis which the world has just faced must give a new strong impetus towards general and complete disarmament and other measures which will reduce international tensions and sources of conflict.

President Kennedy wrote to Chairman Khrushchev on October 28: "I agree with you that we must devote urgent attention to the problem of disarmament as it relates to the whole world and also to critical areas. Perhaps now as we step back from danger, we can together make real progress in this vital field. ... We should work hard to see if wide measures of disarmament can be agreed to and put into operation at an early date." Chairman Khrushchev in his letter to President Kennedy of October 28, emphasized the wish of the