

External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

No. 53/30

Question of factors which should be taken into account in deciding whether a territory has attained full measure of self-government. (Agenda item 33)

Statement made on October 6, 1953, by the Canadian Representative in the Fourth Committee of the eighth session of the General Assembly, Mr. G.S. Patterson.

The Canadian delegation to the seventh session of the General Assembly last year found it necessary to vote against the resolution establishing the Ad Hoc Committee which has now reported to our session. This Canadian attitude was prompted not by any particular objection to the Ad Hoc Committee itself, but by the fact that the resolution contained a number of declarations of principle with which the delegation was unable to agree. It is with much regret that my delegation now finds similar declarations of principle inserted in the draft proposal submitted by the delegation of Brazil and to an even greater extent, in the amendments outlined in Document L-273.

Like many delegations around this table, my delegation is fully aware of the industry which the members of the Ad Hoc Committee displayed in their efforts to fulfill the task assigned to them by the Assembly. My delegation is therefore fully appreciative of the work accomplished by the Committee. As we have pointed out before, my delegation has furthermore no objection in principle to the study which has been made of a list of factors nor to the list itself which has resulted from this study. We have no doubt that the present list may have a useful bearing on some of the questions pertaining to the work done both by this Committee and by the Trusteeship Council. The work accomplished in this field has not been wasted, and my delegation agrees that it can be of service to those countries which have responsibilities with respect to non-self-governing territories. To that extent, the first two paragraphs of the operative part of the Brazilian proposal are acceptable to my delegation.

As I have already suggested, however, and for the same reasons which the Canadian representative in the Fourth Committee outlined last year, I must take exception to the principle in Paragraph 6 and to those which are implied in Paragraphs three and seven of the operative part of that proposal.

Paragraph six of the Brazilian proposal would re-affirm that a territory cannot be deemed to be self-governing in economic, social or educational affairs unless its people have attained a full measure of self-government.