

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

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Statement on United Nations Activities in the Congo (ONUC)  
Supplementary Estimates for the Financial Year 1960,  
by Mr. E. L. M. Burns,  
Alternate Delegate, in the Fifth Committee on December 4<sup>5</sup>, 1960

Mr. Chairman,

My Delegation considers that the question of providing adequate financial support for the operations of the United Nations in the Congo is one of the most important facing member nations during the present Session. Indeed, the issue may be as vital as any other which the organization has been called upon to face. This is not merely a financial and budgetary matter. It is a political question which transcends differences of national interest and is inescapably related to the reason for the existence of the United Nations. If a satisfactory solution can be found, the organization will be greatly strengthened; if not, consequences of a most serious nature could follow.

No delegation here can be unaware of the occasions when the United Nations has failed to live up to the hopes of its founders in the field of political action for collective security. The underlying premise of the Charter, particularly Chapter Seven, that the Great Powers would act unanimously to ensure the preservation of peace, has not proven true for well known reasons. The original peace-keeping machinery envisaged fifteen years ago in the Charter has therefore been of limited usefulness. The nations of the world have paid a price for this in the continuing risk of war and in the growing anxiety which this has engendered.

Nevertheless, nations have sought, within limits imposed by the United Nations Charter and by the hard facts of international life, to provide effective substitute means for keeping the peace in troubled areas. It is very encouraging that in most recent situations the machinery for containing local threats to the peace has developed within the framework of the United Nations. In this way the nations of the world have been enabled to call upon the services of countries which obviously had no narrow national purposes to serve but wished only to strengthen and extend the authority and influence of the United Nations. Frequently, the acquiescence and even the