

maintained that a viable agreement must contain appropriate arrangements for verification. I believe that we must also recognize that by supporting the neutral resolution we should be abandoning this vital principle of disarmament.

Consequently, I continue to believe very strongly that Canada should not vote in favour of the so-called neutral resolution. In my judgment this has become even more inopportune in view of events in Cuba. I would welcome an opportunity to discuss this matter more fully with you, or, should you consider it appropriate, to discuss the question in Cabinet. Since the matter may come to a vote in the First Committee in the very near future, this consideration is urgent.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Minister of External Affairs for his information.

Yours sincerely,

DOUGLAS S. HARKNESS

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*Rapport final de la dix-septième session de la première commission
de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies*

*Final Report of the Seventeenth Session of the First Committee
of the United Nations General Assembly*

CONFIDENTIAL

[New York], March 14, 1963

ITEM 77: THE URGENT NEED FOR THE SUSPENSION
OF NUCLEAR AND THERMONUCLEAR TESTS

Summary

This item was proposed by the Delegation of India. During the period since the sixteenth session of the United Nations General Assembly, little progress had been achieved at the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Conference in Geneva. Both the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics were, at the time of the debate in the first Committee, still in the course of conducting large-scale atmospheric tests. There was wide-spread feeling in the General Assembly that this item was of the greatest urgency and importance. The debate was a long one and for most of the time, there were intensive behind-the-scenes negotiations on what proposals should be submitted. In these discussions Canada played a leading role. There were two resolutions submitted: one resolution was sponsored by 37 non-aligned countries including the eight members of the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee in Geneva. The second resolution was tabled by the United States and the United Kingdom. The non-aligned resolution, in its original form, condemned all nuclear tests and asked the nuclear powers to stop all nuclear testing by January 1, 1963. The United States-United Kingdom resolution urged the Eighteen-Nation Committee to conclude a treaty with effective and prompt international verification prohibiting tests in all environments. Canada submitted amendments to the non-aligned resolution, the most important of which provided for a ban on testing in the atmosphere, outer space and under water if a comprehensive treaty was not reached by January 1, 1963. The Ghanaian Delegation submitted a sub-amendment to the Canadian amendment which Canada modified (with Ghanaian concurrence) and accepted. The sub-amendment, as incorporated in the Canadian amendment, provided that the ban in three environments should be accompanied by an interim arrangement suspending testing underground, taking as a basis the memorandum of the eight non-aligned countries submitted to the Eighteen-Nation Committee and taking into consideration other proposals. The United States and the United Kingdom submitted a sub-amendment to Canada's amendment, as revised, providing that the interim agreement covering underground testing should include adequate assurances for