

DRAFT DECLARATION ON
TERRITORIAL ASYLUMSTATEMENT NO. 62
October 31, 1967TEXT OF STATEMENT MADE BY CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE, MR. PAUL BEAULIEU

Mr. Chairman, my delegation does not wish to speak at great length on this item. This is particularly so because the statement delivered last Thursday, October 26, by the distinguished representative of Norway summed up in clear and precise terms many of the views on this item which my government would otherwise have wished to stress. Briefly, we too recognize that the present text of the Draft Declaration represents a compromise, one which emerged only after lengthy negotiations. Because it is a compromise, we too are by no means wholly satisfied with the version before us and, were we to be able to secure the redrafting of parts of it, we would then be happier with it than we are at present. We do not, however, intend to propose any formal changes to the text. Canada is hopeful that a Declaration will be adopted this year. We believe that the intention underlying the Draft, which is the wish to develop a more liberal policy on Asylum on a world-wide basis, is a worthy one. We further believe that, despite any imperfections, this Draft will contribute to the realization of that aim.

While we do not intend to propose formal amendments to the text I would nevertheless like, on behalf of my delegation, to draw attention to a few of the particular aspects of the draft with which Canada is not entirely satisfied. We find them unsatisfactory either because they include language which we consider inappropriate in a general Declaration of this kind or because, we think, they do not at present express with sufficient clarity and precision the ideas embodied in them.

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