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RED CHINA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

The following statement was made on December 8, 1961, to the Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly by Senator Alfred J. Brooks, Vice-Chairman of the Canadian delegation:

"For more than a decade the question of the representation of China has posed a dilemma for this organization. It has provoked sharp differences of opinion in this Assembly. There is no simple solution. Had there been one, we would not still have the undecided question before us.

"It is precisely because the question is so complex, and because opinions on its solution have differed so widely, that this Assembly has not previously thought it wise or timely to take a decision on the substance of the matter. Now, however, for the first time, we are concerned with the real issues. I should like to state the views of my delegation on these issues.

"Let me say plainly at the outset, Mr. President, that the Canadian delegation is ready to consider carefully any proposal to settle equitably the question of Chinese representation.

"I stress the word 'equitably'. There are those who claim that wrong has been done to one of the parties concerned. They are entitled to that opinion, but I cannot believe that any delegation in this Assembly would seriously seek to right what it considers to be one wrong by the creation of another.

PROTECTING INTERESTS OF FORMOSANS

"It is the firm opinion of my delegation that there must be preserved for the people of Formosa the right to self-determination. The right of all peoples to a

voice in their own destinies is one that is fundamental to the purpose of the United Nations.

"Subject to due respect for that right in this matter before us, the Canadian delegation will, I repeat, give the most earnest attention to any proposals which may be advanced.

"Mao Tse-Tung, the Chairman of the Communist Party of China, said some months ago in an interview with a foreign correspondent - and I quote 'Taiwan is China's affair. We will insist on this.' It is quite clear that what he meant was that the future of Taiwan was Peking's affair and no one else's.

"My delegation, Mr. President, cannot accept that claim. We believe, on the contrary, that the future of Formosa is the affair of the people of Formosa. Canadians would never understand or accept a solution by which this organization sanctioned the forcible extinction of the political identity of Formosa. Canadians have always been led to believe that the United Nations function is to prevent the imposition by force on any people of a political regime unacceptable to them.

"On another occasion, the head of the Government in Peking, Chou En-Lai, said - and again I quote - 'This question is relatively simple. If the so-called "Taiwan clique" is to appear in the United Nations, under whatever form and in whatever name - be it the Chiang Kai-shek clique or some other clique - we will definitely refuse to take part in the United Nations and sit together with them.'

"So far as the delegation of Canada is concerned, that is an unacceptable condition. Believing that the people of Formosa have a clear and inalienable