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NEW DEAL FOR ALGERIA

On December 1, Mr. Wallace Nesbitt, Vice-Chairman of the Canadian Delegation to the United Nations, made the following statement on the Algerian situation in the First Committee:

"...As we have been already reminded in this debate, this is the fourth session of the General Assembly at which we have discussed the question of Algeria. As has also been pointed out, however, and particularly in the wise and statesmanlike declaration of the distinguished Representative of Tunisia, the conditions surrounding our debate at this session are radically different from those which existed at any time in the past. My Delegation considers that, since September 16 of this year, the character of this question has been completely changed and a totally new point of departure for its solution has been provided.

"On that date ... the President of France, General de Gaulle, issued a declaration in which he recognized the right of the Algerian people--and he specified that by this he meant the right of all the people of Algeria--to self-determination. In the name of France he committed himself to asking the Algerian people to make a free choice of one of three alternatives, secession from France, out-and-out identification with France, or a middle course of federation with France. He has promised that he will negotiate a cessation of hostilities with the combatants now engaged in the tragic conflict in Algeria, and that this

cessation of hostilities will be followed 'at latest four years after the actual restoration of peace' by a free referendum whereby the people of Algeria will be able to decide for themselves their own future.

POLICY OF DE GAULLE

"Now Canada has been familiar ... ever since General de Gaulle made his famous Brazzaville declaration in 1944, with his enlightened approach to such problems as that of Algeria, and my Delegation considers that the policy he enunciated on September 16, and reiterated on November 10, is a further expression of his liberal views and intentions. We have every confidence in President de Gaulle's intention to carry this policy through to completion and also in his ability to do so. We believe, therefore, that his declaration of September 16 affords the basis for a real movement towards the final solution and settlement of the dispute which has plagued Algeria for so long. Indeed, we can already see signs in some quarters that this movement has begun, and we therefore hope and trust that full advantage will be taken of this encouraging situation at the earliest possible opportunity. Thus the way is open for the achievement of the legitimate aspirations of the Algerian people--aspirations ... which have attracted much sympathy and support, particularly in this forum where we are dedicated to the preservation of fundamental human liberties.

(Over)