

# Canada and the United Nations

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## Security Council Elections

The tenth session of the General Assembly ended on December 20. At its last meeting, the stalemate in the elections for the Eastern European seat on the Security Council, which had engaged the General Assembly eight times since October 14, was finally broken by the election of Yugoslavia on the 36th ballot by a vote of 43 to 11 for the Philippines (Finland and Sweden receiving 1 vote each). The required majority was 38 votes. The Council's elected membership from January 1, 1956, is as follows: Cuba (replacing Brazil), Australia (replacing New Zealand), Yugoslavia (replacing Turkey), and Belgium, Iran and Peru (whose terms expire on December 31, 1956).

A somewhat confused situation resulted from the behind-the-scenes proposal of the President of the General Assembly that the two contestants draw lots, the winner to resign after filling the first half of the two-year term, and the loser to be elected next year for the remainder of the terms. Before the 35th ballot, the President announced that both countries had agreed to this procedure and Yugoslavia had won the draw. Nevertheless, the vote given Yugoslavia on this ballot (34 to the Philippines' 19) fell short of the required majority of 40. The failure to achieve an overwhelming vote in favour of Yugoslavia indicates how little general support there was for the scheme to end the deadlock. The Canadian Delegation made no commitment, public or private, regarding any arrangement by which Yugoslavia would resign after one year on the understanding that the seat would then go to the Philippines.

## Disarmament

On December 16, the General Assembly adopted by a vote of 56 in favour, 7 against (Soviet bloc) with no abstentions, the disarmament resolution approved by the Political Committee on the initiative of the Western members of the Disarmament Sub-committee (Canada, France, United Kingdom, United States). The Communist countries had been the only opponents of the Four Power resolution in the vote of the Political Committee.

The resolution urges the States concerned, and particularly countries members of the Sub-committee, (1) to continue their efforts towards reaching agreement on a comprehensive disarmament programme and (2) "as initial steps, to give priority to early agreement on and implementation of (A) such confidence-building measures as President Eisenhower's plan for exchanging military blueprints and mutual aerial inspection, and Marshall Bulganin's plan for establishing control posts at strategic centres; and (B) all such measures of adequate safeguarded disarmament as are now feasible" in spite of the technical difficulties which have arisen in regard to the detection and control of nuclear weapon material. The resolution at the same time suggests that account be taken of the French proposals for the exchange of information on military budgets and the allocation of savings resulting from disarmament for economic development, of the Eden proposal for a "pilot scheme" of inspection and