

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



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CHINESE REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS

Text of Statement to be made in explanation of vote
in the General Assembly by the Canadian Permanent
Representative to the United Nations, Mr. George
Ignatieff, on Monday, November 27, 1967.

I wish briefly to explain the votes of the Canadian delegation on the various resolutions on Chinese Representation before the Assembly.

We are naturally disappointed that again this year the Chinese representation issue has not been brought any closer to a solution.

The Canadian delegation will, in accordance with long-established Canadian policy, vote in favour of the concept that this matter is an important one, not only in the specific juridical terms of Article 18 of the Charter, but also in the far broader and more general context of international relations. We believe that while there may be strong pressures for a solution based on the views of a simple majority of our membership, such a solution would in fact be unworkable unless at least two-thirds of our Members gave it their active support, including I would suggest the major world powers.

On the substance of the issue, we will abstain as we did last year on the resolution put forward by Cambodia and a group of co-sponsors. That resolution, drafted in familiar terms, is no more satisfactory to us than the only other option with which this Assembly has been presented-- that is to ignore the existence of the People's Republic of China. The Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, suggested to this Assembly last year that neither of these options took account of the fundamental changes which have occurred in China since the United Nations was established. Nor did they point to a rational solution of the problem. He suggested at that time