

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(FIFTEENTH SESSION)

TEXT OF ADDRESS: ADMISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

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750 3rd Avenue
Yukon 6-5740

ADDRESS BY WALLACE B. NESBITT, Q.C., M.P., VICE-
CHAIRMAN OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK CITY,
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Mr. President:

In company with the other members of the Commonwealth, I am very pleased to congratulate and warmly welcome Nigeria on its admission to the United Nations. It is a most fortunate and happy circumstance that the distinguished Prime Minister of that country and his Cabinet colleagues have been able to be present here in the Assembly on this great occasion.

I think it most appropriate that I should recall the record of Nigeria's progress towards independence. This record reflects the responsibility and high statesmanship shown by the Nigerian leaders and the harmony and cooperation existing between Nigeria and the United Kingdom: these two countries together have thus contributed much to the United Nations and indeed to the world.

In extending our welcome to Nigeria, Canada offers its sympathetic interest and affirms its faith in Nigeria's future as a great African state and as a staunch supporter of the United Nations.

It must be a source of justifiable pride to the people of Nigeria that the transformation from colony to statehood has been accomplished in an atmosphere of dignity and goodwill reaching its culmination last Saturday on Independence Day. The Canadian Delegation to that celebration has sent back a glowing account of the occasion.

On achieving independence it happens that Nigeria has chosen to remain within the Commonwealth. This is an important event in the post-war evolution of the Commonwealth association of free and