

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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NON-INTERVENTION - Item 107

Text of Statement on Inadmissibility of
Intervention in Domestic Affairs of States,
To be Delivered in the First Committee by the
Canadian Representative, Mr. E.L.M. Burns,
on Thursday, December 9, 1965.

Mr. Chairman, Canada believes that the principle to which this item relates, that of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of States, is one of great importance. It is appropriate that the United Nations should concern itself with this matter. We have waited to speak until this rather late stage of the debate in order that we might hear the views of as many other member nations as possible. We have listened carefully to what our colleagues have had to say and consider that, in spite of certain unfortunate polemics which from time to time interrupted the constructive course of the discussion, much of value has emerged. The key question now is whether it will be possible to achieve a meaningful consensus on the subject in the time available to us.

To the Canadian Delegation it appears that, in view of the wide contradictions between the viewpoints exemplified by the USSR draft declaration and the amendments proposed by the USA and the UK, as well as those brought out in alternative draft resolutions, it will be very difficult to devise a declaration or resolution to which a large majority can adhere.

As the Committee is aware a number of representatives, including the representative of Tunisia the other day, have suggested that the matter before us should be studied by a special committee constituted for the purpose. Now, the subject matter of the proposed declarations, the principle of non-intervention, is one of those which has been studied and is undoubtedly to be studied further by the Special Committee on Friendly Relations, whose Mexico City report is at present being debated under agenda item 90 in the Sixth Committee. It forms the subject matter of chapter 5 of Document A/5746 of November 16, 1964, the report of the Special Committee on the Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations, but that Special Committee was unable to reach any consensus on the scope or content of the principle.