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Item 18: Implementation of the Declaration
on the Granting of Independence
to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Western Sahara

Explanation of Vote delivered by M.G. Miller
Fourth Committee, October 25, 1989

Dept. of External Affairs
Min. des Affaires extérieures
OTTAWA

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The Canadian delegation abstained in the vote on the draft resolution regarding Western Sahara.

Canada only did so in keeping with its longstanding position of neutrality towards the issue, which implies the search for some form of consensus as a means to effectively putting an end to the conflict. At the same time, Canada noted with considerable satisfaction that the text of the resolution was very moderate in substance and had indeed undergone a number of changes designed to accommodate all parties. The Canadian delegation wishes to salute the highly commendable conciliatory efforts.

The Canadian delegation is very pleased with the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and wishes to renew its gratitude to him and to the chairman of the OAU for their untiring mediation efforts. The Canadian government more than ever supports the continuation of these efforts.