



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 60/36 AN IMPARTIAL APPEAL FOR DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS

A statement by the Secretary of State, Mr. Howard Green, in the First Committee of the United Nations on November 1, 1960.

... My purpose in intervening in the debate at this time is to call to the attention of the First Committee a joint draft resolution which I intend to submit in the name of Canada, Norway, Sweden and others. Although the Committee will be discussing various resolutions at a later stage, I believe that it may facilitate our work if I give some indication now of what the co-sponsors seek to achieve in submitting their draft proposals.

In his most helpful statement yesterday, the distinguished Foreign Minister of Sweden clearly described the situation now facing the Committee. He pointed to the need for concentrating at this time on the essential question of negotiating machinery.

Document Not Controversial

First I wish to emphasize strongly that the draft resolution is not intended to be a controversial document. It seeks neither to endorse the position of any one side nor to cast criticism in any one direction. It is concerned mainly with the problem of restarting negotiations and facilitating the attainment of the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control. It goes farther than a mere exhortation in this regard, however, by seeking to strengthen United Nations influence on the course of negotiations and principally to bring to bear the opinions and views of the middle and small powers. It provides for preparatory steps to be taken at once.

All states have an interest in the outcome of our deliberations in this Committee. Peoples everywhere are watching and waiting and hoping. Thus far the General Assembly in this fifteenth session has not given much promise for the future. But if we accomplish nothing else at this session, we must try to speak with one voice in favour of resuming serious disarmament negotiations at the earliest possible time. We must check the drift, so noticeable in recent weeks, away from serious talks and in the direction of sterile propaganda debates.