

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT

PRESS RELEASE No. 44

November 23, 1965

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY

Press Office
750 Third Avenue
New York
YUkon 6-5740

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

Text of Statement in Explanation of Vote on World Disarmament
Conference to be delivered in the First Committee by the
Canadian Representative, Mr. E. L. M. Burns, on Tuesday
November 23, 1965

Mr. Chairman, in explaining Canada's vote on the resolution now before us, I should first of all like to express my Delegation's appreciation to the principal sponsors who worked so untiringly to produce a draft which could obtain the widest possible support. The results of the voting which has just taken place clearly indicate the degree of success which they achieved.

Canada voted in favour of the resolution and in doing so gave its support to the principle of convening a conference in which the nations of the world, both those inside the United Nations and those not represented here would have an opportunity to exchange views and express their opinions on the all-important question of disarmament. We made our decision to support this idea even though we believed, as I indicated to the Committee in my statement of October 19, that there were a number of practical problems which would subsequently have to be resolved. The eventual decision by Canada - and I suppose that of any other states - as to participation in the conference will depend on a number of factors including the resolution of these practical problems but in the meantime we have been encouraged by the wide-spread recognition on the part of the sponsors of the resolution and others that the concern which we had expressed is legitimate and is designed not to obstruct the holding of a World Disarmament Conference, but to ensure that it will be properly organized, so that useful results can be achieved. In this connection I would like to refer to the statement made yesterday by the distinguished representative of Algeria when he was formally introducing the final text of the draft resolution. He said at that time and I quote ... "important questions have quite properly been raised: questions as to dates, participation, duration, financing, etc. No one can minimize their importance".

The distinguished representative of Byelorussia attempted in his intervention on November 19 to suggest that the Western countries did not want a conference at all and were doing all in their power to delay its convening by laying down unacceptable conditions in advance. Today without exception the Western nations have voted in favour of the principle of