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SEVENTEENTH SESSION

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STATEMENT BY MR. HEATH MACQUARRIE, M.P.,
IN PLENARY, ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD
TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION
ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES
NOVEMBER 23, 1962

Last year, when Resolution 1654 (XVI) was adopted, the Canadian Delegation recognized that it was logical and sensible to create machinery for the purpose of examining the application of the 1960 Colonial Declaration and making suggestions and recommendations on the progress achieved in implementing the Declaration.

That Declaration is rightly regarded as an historical document. It expresses in the clearest terms the very strong desire of this Assembly to hasten in every way it can the movement to independence which has been one of the most exciting and important features of the times in which we live.

My Delegation sees no need to feel dissatisfied with the steady progress which has been made in the past two years towards its implementation. Seventeen new members joined the United Nations in September and October, 1960, at the beginning of the fifteenth session. Because of pride in their independence and their desire that the movement should not lose its momentum, these new members played a most decisive part in bringing about the adoption of the Colonial Declaration by an overwhelming majority of the Fifteenth Assembly on December 14, 1960. Since that date the United Nations has welcomed ten more newly independent member countries. Several more are on the verge of independence.

Canada voted for the resolution setting up the Committee of Seventeen on the understanding that the function of the Committee was to scrutinize the progress made in applying the principles of the Colonial Declaration, to offer suggestions on the practical steps that should be taken in particular territories, and to report back