

GOVERNMENT



OF CANADA

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 58/47

DISARMAMENT

A statement by Mr. Sidney E. Smith, Secretary of State for External Affairs, and Chairman of the Canadian Delegation, in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, on Monday, October 20, 1958.

... The Canadian Delegation has listened with great interest to the statements made in this Committee on the subject of disarmament. It seems to us, Mr. Chairman, that there is universal awareness, expressed by all the speakers, of the appalling threat which the possibility of war presents in a nuclear age, and the need for disarmament as a condition of human survival. Against this sombre background, it must seem to those who are, in all countries, following our discussions, that a great effort is demanded of the United Nations to reach some measure of agreement as to our objectives. This Committee cannot, by its own direct action, bring about disarmament, but we can, I believe, powerfully influence the outcome.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that there has been, during the last few days, a growing tendency in the Committee to try to find some common ground on the means of attaining our objectives, particularly over testing of nuclear weapons. There are, as we all know, a number of resolutions relating to this subject before the Committee, and indeed it is dealt with in the resolution which we ourselves, along with sixteen other governments, are co-sponsoring. For our part, we very much welcome this trend in the Committee towards a search for a unanimous approach to this problem, a trend which has found expression in various forms in a number of recent speeches from representatives of countries in many parts of the world. It is very understandable that sober opinion in this Committee should not wish to see our discussions end in an atmosphere of disunity. It is particularly important, it seems to us, in connection with the forthcoming meeting in Geneva of October 31, to consider the question of nuclear testing.