

efficient working methods. The speed and the efficiency with which we carry out our work is an important factor in determining the degree of public support for the United Nations.

In conclusion may I express my firm conviction that the United Nations has emerged from the uncertainty which clouded the sixteenth session. Confidence and stability are being restored. The atmosphere in the present assembly is favourable for constructive work.

We now have an opportunity to respond to the improved situation by dealing firmly with the main issues before us. We must take encouragement from the recent progress, however gradual toward peace. We must maintain a steady United Nations course in that direction, conscious of the undercurrents of danger in our troubled world but confident that we can control them.

We live in an age in which there have been several very important developments.

First, there has been the greatest spread of self government in the history of mankind.

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Text of a Statement on the Cessation of Nuclear Weapons Tests Delivered October 11, 1962, in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly by the Canadian Representative, Lt. Gen. E. L. M. Burns

Mr. Chairman,

In the opinion of the Canadian delegation, there is nothing before this assembly which is more urgent or fateful than the question of how to put a final stop to the testing of nuclear weapons. This is an object for whose achievement all members of this organization should stand united, for all of us will suffer if these experiments continue. The United Nations general assembly cannot legislate an end to nuclear tests, but it can and should use the immense moral force of its decisions to press for a speedy solution of the problem.

Mr. Chairman, my government remains unequivocally opposed to all nuclear weapons tests. That virtually all delegations also oppose them has been made clear by statements which we have listened to in the general debate in plenary. This can be taken as proof that nuclear testing is opposed by the vast majority of men and women all over the world.

Canada is opposed to further testing for two good reasons. In his statement in general debate, the Secretary of State for External Affairs emphasized that, first of all, we are gravely concerned by the dangers to human health which result from nuclear testing. In our view, which we believe is supported by

Second, there has been the greatest interest in helping developing nations. Most of that interest is idealistic and unselfish. I admit that there is some selfishness in it but primarily it is idealistic and unselfish.

Third, there is the greatest friendliness and understanding among peoples. What a great thing it is for a foreign minister to come here and be able to talk to 30 or 40 other foreign ministers, as well as distinguished representatives of other grades. Never has there been such an understanding of problems and views of other nations.

Fourth, we live in an age in which there has been the most widespread desire for peace of all time.

Each of these four developments has been brought about largely by the work of the United Nations—by the work of this organization. If we keep this fact in mind and retain our optimism and our hope, this session will be the best in the history of the United Nations.

scientific findings, the bodily health of everyone is endangered by exposure to additional radiation. But what is more disquieting, increased radioactivity resulting from nuclear tests can have incalculable effects on future generations. This generation would therefore perpetrate a grave moral wrong on posterity by continuing nuclear testing.

It may be said that from the humane and moral standpoint, these arguments are sound, but that, if considerations of defence and national security require them, nuclear weapons tests must go on, notwithstanding their undesirable effects. But does continued testing improve the security of any nation? In the short term, it may be claimed that nuclear testing is required in order to effect or restore a balance in weapon power. But is there any reason to think that national security can be maintained over the years in this way? In my view, there is not. A protracted competition in this sphere—between super-powers already armed to a degree hardly imaginable—can only increase international tensions, and the ultimate danger of nuclear war.

The major nuclear powers are themselves in agreement that continued testing increases the pace of armaments race. In a joint statement released last August 27 by the Prime