

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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STATEMENT BY CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE IN THE
FIRST COMMITTEE IN EXPLANATION OF VOTE
NOVEMBER 19, 1963.

Mr. Chairman,

I should like to explain why the Canadian Delegation is unable to vote for the 17-power resolution contained in Document A/C.1/L.330.

When the question of convening a conference to sign a convention prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons was first proposed at the 16th Session of the General Assembly in 1961, we voted against the resolution 1653 which is recalled in the resolution now before us, for reasons given in our reply of January 26, 1962 to the Secretary-General's enquiry which I will now quote:

"The Canadian Government has consistently sought to bring about far-reaching measures of nuclear disarmament, and to have all aspects of this important problem carefully studied in international disarmament negotiations. Canada considers, however, that the convening of a special conference on the question of the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons could have an adverse effect on international disarmament negotiations already in progress. In the opinion of the Canadian Government, the only effective way to ensure that nuclear weapons will never be used is through agreement on a comprehensive and carefully verified system of disarmament which would deal with all aspects of the problem of nuclear weapons. The Eighteen-Nation Committee is continuing to give full consideration to the question of nuclear disarmament, as well as related measures dealing with armed forces and