

No. 53/69

CHANGE IN OPENING DATE

Text of statement made on November 16, 1953 by Mr. S.D. Hemsley, representative of Canada, in the Fifth Committee of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, on agenda item 52 - Change in opening date of regular sessions of the General Assembly

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NOTE - The text of the resolution adopted by the Assembly and the results of the voting are included at the end of the statement.

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I should like to associate myself with the resolution of the distinguished representative of Pakistan. My delegation agrees that the autumn session should be retained but we have considerable doubts as to the wisdom of deferring the opening date - possibly by two weeks.

While we agree that ideally documentation should be more nearly complete before the session is convened, we are fearful of putting off the opening date for this purpose alone. If we do we might find ourselves in an even less desirable position at Christmas time.

We would not like to see the Assembly in the position of having to adjourn in December, an experience we have had in the past.

For this reason and for the reason that the earlier date meets the parliamentary programme of my country more adequately, my delegation would wish to see no change in the present provision.

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Resolution

Following is the text of the resolution which was approved unanimously in a plenary meeting of the General Assembly on December 9, 1953 (Doc. A/2620):

"The General Assembly,

Noting the report of the Secretary-General concerning the question of a change in the opening date of regular sessions of the General Assembly (A/2436);

Noting also the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as contained in its twentieth report to the eighth session of the General Assembly (A/2553);

Concurs in the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that the existing provision in the rules of procedure concerning the opening date of the General Assembly sessions should be maintained."