

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(EIGHTEENTH SESSION)

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STATEMENT BY GENERAL E.L.M. BURNS
Canadian Representative - First Committee
October 16, 1963.

Mr. Chairman:

The Canadian Delegation heartily supports the draft resolution. We welcome the declarations by the two great powers that they intend not to put weapons of mass destruction into orbit round the earth. We welcome this as another significant step in reducing tension, and improving confidence, thus preparing the way for further and more important moves towards disarmament.

I might remind the Committee that at the 10th meeting of the ENDC, on 27 March 1962, the Canadian representative called attention to the similarity of the provisions for the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction in outer space in the plans for General and Complete Disarmament put forward respectively by the USSR and the USA, and suggested the possibility of a declaration by the powers in regard to this, prior to agreement on general disarmament.

We take the draft resolution we have before us to be a declaration that the arms race will not be extended to outer space, and we know that all the world will welcome this. Cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, and in its scientific exploration, would raise the hope that this truce in the firmament, if I may put it so, may presently descend to the earth, and that the arms race will be halted there. Instead of wasting our energies and nature's resources in preparing to destroy other nations, we could use them, in cooperation, for the betterment of the conditions of life everywhere.