

These Instructions provide broad policy guidance and summarize the position to be taken by the Delegation on the major issues likely to arise at the Twelfth Session.

Items on Suez Canal Clearance and the future of the United Nations Emergency Force do not as yet appear on the Provisional Agenda but they are likely to be introduced at an early stage. If necessary, these will be subjects of further submissions to Cabinet.

The undersigned recommends that the attached Instructions be approved by Cabinet.²

JOHN G. DIEFENBAKER

[PIÈCE JOINTE/ENCLOSURE]

Note

SECRET

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE TWELFTH SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The Twelfth regular session of the United Nations General Assembly opens on September 17 with an agenda of 63 items. This memorandum contains instructions on certain important items and on the general policy of the Delegation. These will be supplemented by instructions to the Delegation on specific questions as they arise.

At the forthcoming session Canada is a candidate for the Security Council on which Canada served for a term in 1948 and 1949. Widespread support for our candidature has been expressed by Commonwealth and other governments. Election to the Security Council would entail important new responsibilities for Canada.

The Delegation should seek to express Canada's strong support for the United Nations and to point out that, despite its imperfections, the organization has played an essential part in maintaining peace, ending conflicts and advancing the social and economic welfare of its members. The Delegation in particular should play the active role which Canada is peculiarly fitted to play in promoting understanding between Western countries and the countries of Asia and Africa in order to prevent the widening of a breach which threatens to weaken the strength of the United Nations.

² Le Cabinet a approuvé ces instructions le 19 septembre 1957, à l'exception des sections autorisant le Canada à soutenir la candidature de l'Égypte à un siège au Conseil économique et social, et de l'inscription des points portant sur l'apartheid et le traitement des personnes d'origine indienne en Afrique du Sud. Le Cabinet estimait que l'Afrique du Sud pouvait établir ses propres politiques internes, et que la délégation devait en conséquence avoir la capacité de voter contre l'inclusion de ces points si nécessaire. Les fonctionnaires des Affaires extérieures ont par la suite convaincu le premier ministre Diefenbaker que voter contre la candidature de l'Égypte à un siège de l'ECOSOC en l'absence de tout autre candidat valable constituerait un affront fait aux nations arabes. Le 20 septembre 1957, le Cabinet autorisait la délégation à appuyer l'Égypte.

Cabinet approved these instructions on September 19, 1957 with the exception of the sections authorizing Canada's support of Egypt for a seat on the Economic and Social Council and the inscription of the items dealing with apartheid and the treatment of people of Indian origin in South Africa. Cabinet agreed that South Africa could determine its own domestic policies and the Delegation should therefore be given the flexibility to vote against inscription of these items if necessary. External Affairs officials subsequently convinced Prime Minister Diefenbaker that a vote against Egypt's bid for an ECOSOC seat in the absence of any other suitable candidate would be an affront to Arab nations. On September 20, 1957, Cabinet authorized the Delegation to support Egypt.