

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

RELEASE ON DELIVERY

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Explanation of Vote on Draft Resolution Against
the Wider Dissemination of Nuclear Weapons, Document
A/C.1/L.253, Rev. 1, Given by Mr. W. B. Nesbitt, Q.C.,
M. P., Chairman of the Delegation of Canada, in the
First Committee on Saturday, December 17, 1960

Mr. Chairman:

The Canadian Delegation has voted in favour of the resolution sponsored by Ireland and other countries in Document 253, Rev. 1, because we believe that the spread of nuclear weapons to an ever-increasing number of countries would pose a threat to mankind. We consider that the only satisfactory way to dispel the dangers inherent in this possibility is through international agreement on a comprehensive and carefully verified system of disarmament. We are therefore happy to see that emphasis is placed in this resolution on the necessity of achieving permanent agreement. I stress the word "permanent" because we consider that anything less than an agreement which would apply to all countries and for all time would only continue to leave us a prey to the doubts and fears which we all feel so acutely at this time.

Nonetheless, we believe that, pending the realization of permanent agreement other admittedly less satisfactory measures designed to prevent the widespread dissemination of nuclear weapons are also worthy of encouragement. As a result, we support the provisions in the resolution which call for temporary measures to combat the spread of such weapons.

Here again, however, I must emphasize the importance of the time factor. We have stressed over and over again the necessity of resuming negotiations on disarmament and we think that the threat of the further spread of nuclear weapons is one of the most important reasons for getting on with these negotiations. If no steps are taken toward disarmament - if, indeed, we do not have even a beginning to serious negotiations on this subject - no country will be content to sit