

TEXT OF EXPLANATION OF VOTE GIVEN ON ITEM 107,
INADMISSIBILITY OF INTERVENTION IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF STATES,
BY MR. TREMBLAY ON DECEMBER 20, 1965

My Delegation of course appreciates the strenuous efforts which have been made by representatives of two major groups of nations to achieve an understanding on the compromise text on non-intervention. As the Canadian representative in this Committee stated on December 9, the principle involved--non-intervention in domestic affairs of States--is one of primary importance. It is because of its importance that my Delegation cannot help but have some reservations about the speed with which this Committee is attempting to adopt a declaration which will undoubtedly represent a milestone in our work and whose echoes will be heard in this Organization for years to come. In these circumstances and given the complexity of the matter the Canadian Delegation continues to consider that the wisest course would have been to have the subject matter of this item transferred for further consideration by the Special Committee on Friendly Relations which is being reconstituted at this session.

The Canadian Delegation on the other hand appreciates and understands the sense of urgency which underlies the efforts made by various Delegations to bring our work on this question to a successful conclusion at this session. If it is the will of a large majority of members of this Committee that we press this item to its conclusion at this Assembly my Delegation will not resist that development. Nevertheless we believe that more time could have been usefully spent on this subject and that in any case the Special Committee on Friendly Relations should be encouraged to pursue its particular work in attempting to reach a consensus on the scope and content of the principle of non-intervention. It seems to my Delegation that this legal consideration of the many aspects of this issue will remain to be done even if the declaration now before us is adopted at this session. Mr. Chairman, I would like to associate my Delegation with the well taken remarks made by the distinguished Representative of France to the effect that the declaration on which we are about to be called to vote should not be regarded as a precedent in the establishment of juridical principles which should guide relations between states. Like the Delegation of France my Delegation also has reservations about certain phrases and expressions in Document L.364. For example, my Delegation questions the correctness and appropriateness of the use of the word "reaffirming" in preambular paragraph 5 and the references to "peoples" elsewhere in the text.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, in light of the considerations mentioned above my Delegation can vote in favour of this draft declaration and with the view that what we would be doing is expressing the political will of this Committee, and subsequently of this Assembly, on this very important principle.

