

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

PRESS RELEASE No. 95  
December 17, 1966.

Press Office  
750 Third Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10017.

Peacekeeping

Statement to be made by the Canadian Permanent Representative, Mr. George Ignatieff, on Item 33 (Comprehensive Review of the Whole Question of Peacekeeping Operations in All their Aspects, in the Plenary Session of Saturday, December 17, 1966.

I have asked to speak in plenary in order once more to make clear our views on the question of peacekeeping and particularly on resolution B which was submitted in the Special Political Committee by Canada and six other co-sponsors. Since the vote was taken in that Committee suggestions have been made by some delegations, both in private and in public, that the adoption of the resolution would in some way be harmful to the United Nations. Indeed a statement was issued only yesterday by a delegation, that implied that certain resolutions would in some degree be contrary to the Charter. It has been further implied that it might prejudice the co-operation of delegations which do not agree with the recommendations which the Special Political Committee, in accordance with the rules of procedures, has adopted.

The Canadian Government and many other governments have, of course, long been aware that within the Organization there are differing views as to the meaning of the Charter provisions concerning peace and security, and especially as to the respective powers of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

Over the years since San Francisco our discussion of the constitutional issue has continued. This discussion will have to continue in the future until some day we hope an understanding is reached. Meanwhile efforts have been made in the Committee of 33 to make some modest progress. But these efforts, despite the untiring endeavours of the Chairman of that Committee, have not so far produced any results. In the circumstances it is difficult to understand suggestions that the only suitable course of action at this stage is to remit the recommendations of the Special Political Committee to the same Committee of 33 which has been unable to produce a substantive report to the 21st General Assembly.

It is equally difficult to understand why the General Assembly should not be able to provide for some practical steps forward in this area while the desired dialogue continues. This dialogue of course should continue, the resolution provides precisely for this. But we cannot believe it is the wish of the