

SUBDIVISION IV/SUB-SECTION IV

APPRÉCIATION
ASSESSMENT13. DEA/5475-DW-52-D-40*Extrait du rapport final
de la douzième session de l'Assemblée générale à New York¹⁴**Extract from Final Report
on the Twelfth Session of the General Assembly in New York¹⁴*

SECRET. CANADIAN EYES ONLY.

[Ottawa, n.d.]

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GENERAL ASSESSMENT

The international climate of the late summer and autumn of 1957 was not too favourable for constructive endeavour at the Twelfth Session of the General Assembly. One of the main factors was the weakness and indecision of Western leadership. Even before the opening of the Assembly the Soviet Union had announced the successful launching of an intercontinental ballistic missile and this considerable achievement was dramatically enhanced by the launching during the session of two earth satellites. The failure, until quite recently, by the United States to demonstrate its ability in the field of rocketry and the accompanying emotional reaction in the United States undoubtedly helped to lower the prestige of the United States — and consequently of the Western Powers — at the Twelfth Session. Nevertheless, the very noticeable faltering of Western leadership could be attributed to deeper causes than to the Soviet Union's spectacular but possibly temporary gains in the science of rockets.

2. The deterioration of the Western position in the Middle East was a contributing factor of no mean importance. The Assembly opened in the threatening atmosphere of a new crisis along the Syrian-Turkish frontier and the United States bore the brunt of sharp criticism for its part in what was regarded as interference in the domestic affairs of the Arab states. This was a further development in the adverse Arab reaction to the Eisenhower doctrine and to the United States efforts to strengthen its position in the Arab world by exploiting rifts between the Arab governments. This policy which the United States followed during the spring and summer of 1957 had a two-fold reaction against United States interests. It served to dissipate considerable goodwill which the United States had gained from its part during the Middle East crisis of late 1956 and it helped the Soviet Union to strengthen its foothold in the area. The strength of the Arab reaction against those United States policies was sharply illustrated during the general debate at the Twelfth Session and particularly in the response to Mr. Dulles's suggestion that the United Nations should

¹⁴ Ce document est tiré du Rapport final sur la 12^e Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, compilé par les fonctionnaires du Ministère à Ottawa sur la foi des rapports soumis par les membres de la Mission permanente à New York. L'évaluation générale originale non révisée de cette Assemblée générale, qui avait été envoyée de New York, n'a pas été retrouvée.

This document is taken from the Final Report on the Twelfth United Nations General Assembly compiled by departmental officials in Ottawa based on reports submitted by members of the Permanent Mission in New York. The original unedited general assessment of the 12th General Assembly sent from New York was not located.