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Suspension of Nuclear Tests
(Item 30)

Statement to be made by the Canadian Representative, Mr. E. L. M. Burns, in the First Committee on Friday, November 26, 1965

Canada has long held the view that it is very much to be desired that all nuclear weapons tests should be stopped. The draft resolution presented by non-aligned countries calls for action basically in accordance with the policy of the Canadian Government and the Canadian delegation will vote in favour of the resolution.

The Canadian delegation attaches particular importance to the third Operative paragraph of the resolution requesting the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee (ENDC) to continue with energy, determination and a sense of urgency its work on a comprehensive test ban treaty. In our view the key words in this paragraph are "arrangements banning effectively all nuclear weapons tests in all environments taking into account improved possibilities for international cooperation in the field of seismic detection." Put in another way, the heart of the problem is to conclude an international treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons tests in all environments under conditions which would ensure that parties to the treaty can have confidence that obligations undertaken by signatories are being complied with and that nuclear weapons tests are not being carried out in secret. How else is it possible to establish that element of confidence which is essential if an international treaty on a matter affecting the security of states and even the balance of military power underpinning world security and stability is to be generally accepted to become a lasting part of the fabric of international law? In short there must be an effective means of verifying that all nations who subscribe to the treaty will honour their obligations.

Difficulties in the detection of underground nuclear tests are well known. Statements made by repre-