

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

PRESS RELEASE NO. 28
December 13, 1960

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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750 Third Avenue,
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Statement by Prof. A. Anstensen,
Canadian Representative on the
Fourth Committee, on Tuesday,
December 13, 1960.



Question of the Future of Western Samoa

Mr. Chairman:

Little over a year from now, on January 1, 1962, the Territory of Western Samoa will attain full independence and become the first Polynesian member of the family of nations. By that time the Samoan people will have had two years' experience in managing their own affairs under a cabinet and parliamentary system of government with complete internal self-rule. The Samoan people have played the major role in the planning of the future political and constitutional development of their country. Their temperament and training seem to fit them ideally for the smooth and orderly transition to independence that we are witnessing. This is surely a happy augury for the future prosperity and well-being of the new state.

We wish them well as they enter the last stage before independence. The Canadian Delegation would also like to associate itself with the views expressed by the Trusteeship Council at its 26th Session when it warmly commended the Samoan people and New Zealand, as Administering Authority, on the progress that has been made in preparing the Territory for independence.

In this final phase of trusteeship the Trusteeship Council and the General Assembly have been aided by the frankness which the Samoan and New Zealand governments have displayed in explaining the step-by-step development to complete independence and in indicating their present thinking on the possible future relationship between the two countries. This is a reflection of the confidence which both governments place in the United Nations.

The United Nations should respond in like spirit. We must bear in mind that although Western Samoa is still a Trust Territory, it manages its own domestic affairs and has attained a very large measure of self-government. During the last session of the Trusteeship Council the distinguished representative