

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Item 71: Friendly Relations and Cooperation
Among States

Statement by Mr. James E. Brown, Q.C., M.P.
Canadian Representative on the Sixth Committee of the United
Nations General Assembly
November 20, 1963.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation had not planned on intervening at this stage of the debate on Agenda Item 71 which has turned out to be procedural to a large extent. The Canadian Government, in its written comments transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on July 4, 1963, contributed some views and suggestions on Resolution 1815, adopted at the Seventeenth Session, whereby the Sixth Committee was given the important task of considering the principles of international law concerning friendly relations and cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. Moreover, this delegation, along with several others, submitted at this Session in Working Paper A/C.6/L.531 some further suggestions as to the handling of this item.

It has become apparent to us, however, that we should speak briefly in reply to various questions and doubts which have been raised concerning these suggestions.

My delegation read with great interest the comments contributed by other governments and has listened to the many interesting suggestions which have been made so far in the course of this general debate.

The wealth and diversity of approaches which have been proposed point to the wisdom of keeping an open mind about the nature of the study being undertaken, about its pace, and about its eventual results.

The debate in itself tends to confirm that only the test of experience will reveal whether this study is to be a short or a long term