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VOTE ON QUESTION OF ALGERIA

Statement in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly by Mr. W.B. Nesbitt, Vice-Chairman of the Canadian Delegation, on Tuesday, December 7, 1959.

We in the Canadian Delegation have been struck by the ...ng note of unanimity of purpose which has inspired this year's ...te on the Algerian question.

There has been wide recognition that an acceptable basis ...a solution has been established, and tribute has been paid to ...efforts being made to solve the practical difficulties which ...l stand in the way of its application.

Opinion in the Committee has, however, been divided on ..., if anything, the United Nations can and should do to advance a ...tion.

We are not, of course, all agreed on whether the United ...ions has a right or duty to perform on this issue. But we are ...ed that it would be tragic if anything were now to prevent the ...elopments towards a solution which are in progress.

The question which we must, therefore, ask ourselves is ...ther our action here will indeed aid in the ardent and difficult ...rch for a solution in which those directly concerned are now so ...ously and deeply engaged. Would the adoption of a resolution ...eiterate a solution which is so much desired? Or would it disturb ...e delicate balance of interests which now seem to be moving in the ...ht direction?

This ending of the conflict and agreement on a definite ...tlement rest, in fact, in the hands of those directly concerned. ...n can come from their judgment alone. Hence the most the United ...ions could do would be to attempt to influence these judgments by ...ording an opinion on how the issues should be resolved. A ...ecific resolution would, therefore, intentionally or unwittingly ...vour one side or another - and this would amount to assuming the ...ponsibility of judgment which we are neither authorized nor ...petent to exercise.

You could say that this might not be so, that a resolution ...uld be a balanced, non-partisan plea addressed to all concerned to ...-operate in finding a solution. But given the clear signs that ...is just what they are now ardently and actively trying to do, ...uld such a resolution be meaningful? I submit it would add nothing ...their determination to continue in the search for a solution so ...rongly dictated by their natural interests.

At this critical stage when each side is convinced that it ...doing all it can in seeking agreement while protecting its ...ultimate interests and asserting the continuation of the necessary ...pular support on which its authority is based, a resolution could ...ily increase rather than reduce the practical difficulties of detail ...ion have yet to be cleared away to permit effective consultation