

seat in the United Nations. The proposal was dropped when it became apparent that neither of the parties immediately concerned was willing to accept it, and that in these circumstances it would not be acceptable to a majority of the General Assembly.

Upon the failure of its proposal in 1966 for dual representation, which implied dissatisfaction with both alternatives – the existing arrangement, or the seating of the People's Republic of China and the unseating of the "Republic of China" –, Canada decided to abandon its policy of voting against the annual proposed resolution to seat the representatives of the People's Republic of China, and instead to register an abstention; but it continued to vote for the "important question" resolution.

The next step was marked by a change in Canadian policy; in May 1968 the Prime Minister announced that it was Canada's aim to recognize the People's Republic of China as soon as possible and to work towards enabling its government to occupy China's seat at the United Nations. Negotiations with representatives of the People's Republic of China culminated on October 13, 1970, with the announcement of mutual recognition and the establishment of diplomatic relations. A few weeks later the Permanent Delegate of Canada to the United Nations, Mr. Yvon Beaulne, announced that Canada would vote in favour of the resolution proposing that the People's Republic of China should occupy the seat of China in the United Nations. Although for the first time the resolution received a simple majority it failed of adoption because, as usual, the General Assembly had decided that it was an "important question", requiring a two-thirds majority. Canada had voted for the "important question" resolution, while making it clear that it would change its position if, in its judgment, continued support of such a resolution could in the future frustrate the will of the General Assembly.

In its negotiations with the People's Republic of China Canada had found a formula that enabled a number of other countries to follow its example in recognizing the government of the People's Republic