



CANADA

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

60/33

DISARMAMENT MEANS NEGOTIATION

A statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, to the United Nations General Assembly on October 11, 1960.

I do not need to remind this Assembly that disarmament is the most important question facing us; in that regard, I agree with the statement to that effect made by Premier Khrushchov. Nor do I need to emphasize my country's serious concern for the earliest possible solution to this pressing problem.

Canada's nearest neighbours are the U.S.A. on the south and the U.S.S.R. to the north; in other words, we happen to live between the two nations which would be the main antagonists in a nuclear war. We are directly and vitally affected by any increase in world tension.

Under these conditions, it will be easily understood by all delegations why Canada is anxious to see a thorough discussion of all the disarmament items on the agenda.

Premier Khrushchov said in his remarks that the representatives of the Western powers do not find time for discussion of disarmament. This, I submit, is not an accurate statement. I believe that every member of this Assembly stands ready to discuss disarmament now.

The immediate purpose of the Assembly, however, is not to enter upon a substantive discussion of disarmament today but to consider a procedural question raised in the draft resolution submitted by the Soviet Delegation in Document A/L/311. We are dealing here not with the merits of disarmament but only with the question of allocation. The U.S.S.R. is proposing that the UN General Assembly decide to allocate to plenary meeting the Soviet item on disarmament, which reads as follows: "Disarmament and the situation with regard to the fulfilment of the UN General Assembly Resolution 1378 (XIV) of November 20, 1959, on the question of disarmament".

The effect of the proposal now made by the U.S.S.R. would be to change the allocation made by the General Committee. After a thorough discussion, that Committee recommended, by a very decisive majority, that this item should be allocated to the First Committee. We believe such a recommendation to have been the correct one.