

XXII UNGA - FIRST COMMITTEE - AGENDA ITEM 92  
MALTESE PROPOSAL ON SEABED

Draft Statement to be made in First Committee on Friday,  
December 8, by General E.L.M. Burns

Mr. Chairman,

Canada made clear its general views respecting this item when we first spoke on it in this Committee earlier in this session. I should now like however to speak briefly to the draft resolution presently before us. In doing so I should first of all like to join all those members of this Committee who have already expressed, to Chairman Fahmy and to the other members of the small drafting group who laboured so hard and well on our behalf, our sincere thanks and our appreciation and admiration for what they were able to accomplish. Within the Chairman's larger working group, when there were still a considerable number of working papers then before it, Canada outlined to that Group the sort of considerations which we hoped it might be possible to embody in a draft resolution. At that time working paper number 4, which had been tabled by Brazil, was the one which we most favoured because it approximated most closely to what we ourselves would have preferred.

Because it was clear that the range of interests and view points which would have to be reconciled within the working group was extremely broad, and thus that only a most carefully considered compromise draft would be likely to secure general support, it was, of course, not our expectation that the eventual draft that might be agreed upon would in fact be exactly the sort of resolution which Canada, any more than any other particular state, would have really preferred. Draft resolution L.410 of December 6 which is now before us is, nevertheless, in our view,