

XXII UNGA  
SIXTH COMMITTEE  
ITEM 86: LAW OF TREATIES



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Statement No. 58

Explanation of vote: delivered in Sixth Committee

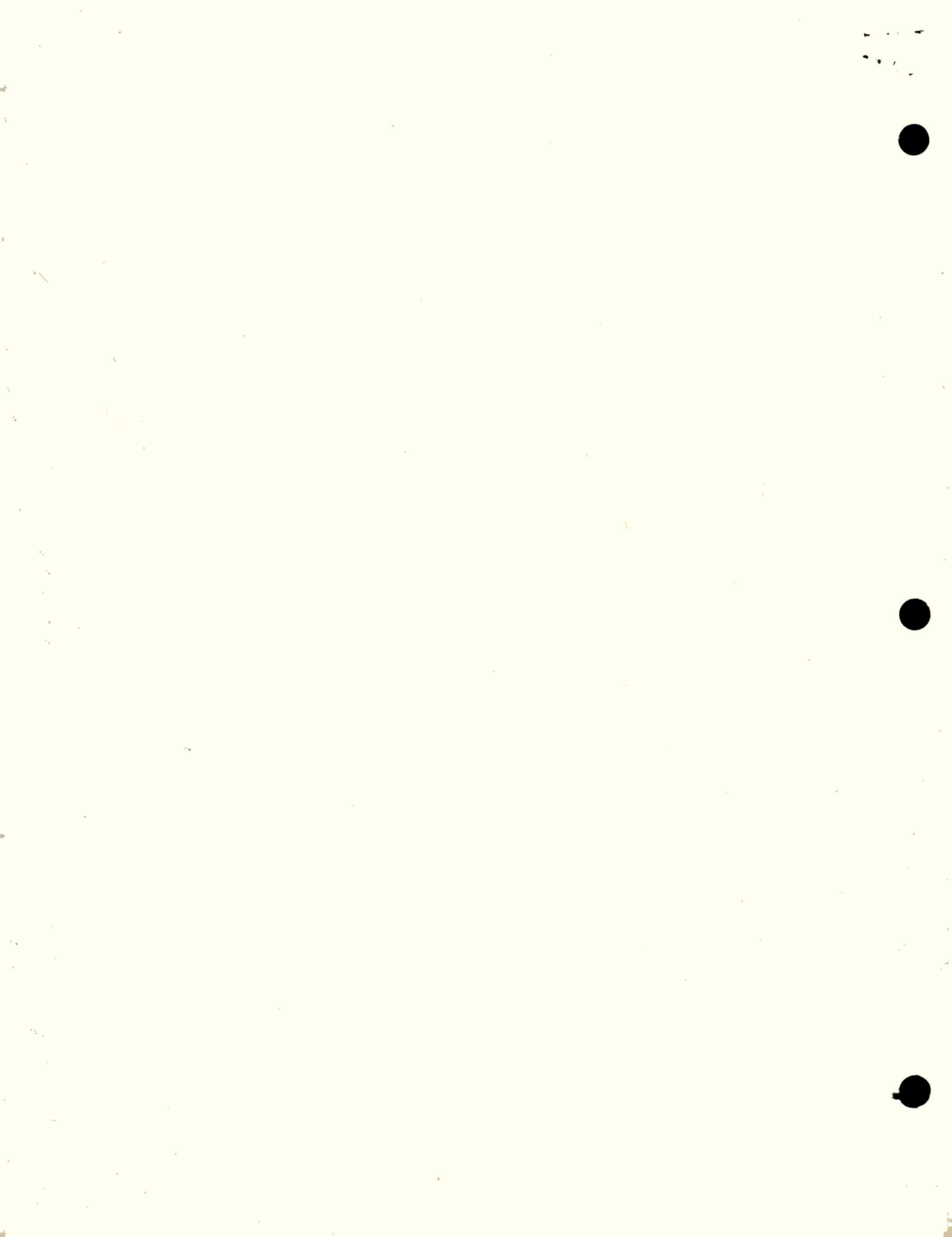
Thursday morning, October 26, 1967, by Mr A.W.J. Robertson, the  
Canadian Representative

Mr. Chairman,

Before I speak to our vote in respect of the draft resolution before us I would like to take this opportunity to state that Canada welcomed the question put by the distinguished representative of Sweden yesterday on the possibilities of additional staff at the forthcoming Conference on Treaties and that we are grateful for the Under-Secretary's helpful reply. We will welcome whatever practical measures it may be possible to take in order to ensure that additional supporting personnel may be available in Vienna, so as to enable the conference to deal with its work as efficiently as possible.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation is prepared to vote in favour of draft resolution L. 623 rev. 1 of October 25 as further modified this morning by its co-sponsors and as it may be additionally modified if the Under-Secretary's suggestion is adopted.

While we have noted what was said earlier today by the distinguished delegate of Dahomey, we are still not altogether happy, however, with the present wording of operative paragraph two. In our view, the present text clearly does set a deadline, that of February 15, 1968, for the submission of comments or amendments to the draft articles, at least insofar as concerns those to be submitted in advance of the Conference.



There are however, undoubtedly some States that would have wished to submit and also to have had circulated in advance of the Conference comments which they may not be able to have ready by this deadline. These States would, therefore, have preferred a form of wording that would at least have left open the possibility that such late comments might also have been circulated in advance of the Conference.

It is for this reason that my delegation, together with other delegations including in particular that of Finland, would have preferred that the relevant phrase in operative paragraph two have been modified by the addition of the words "if possible" before the words "not later than", so that the clause would then have read, "Invites participating States to submit to the Secretary-General, if possible not later than February 15, for circulation ..."

Mr. Chairman, as I have already indicated, Canada will nevertheless support the resolution.

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