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A.W. Robertson/lw

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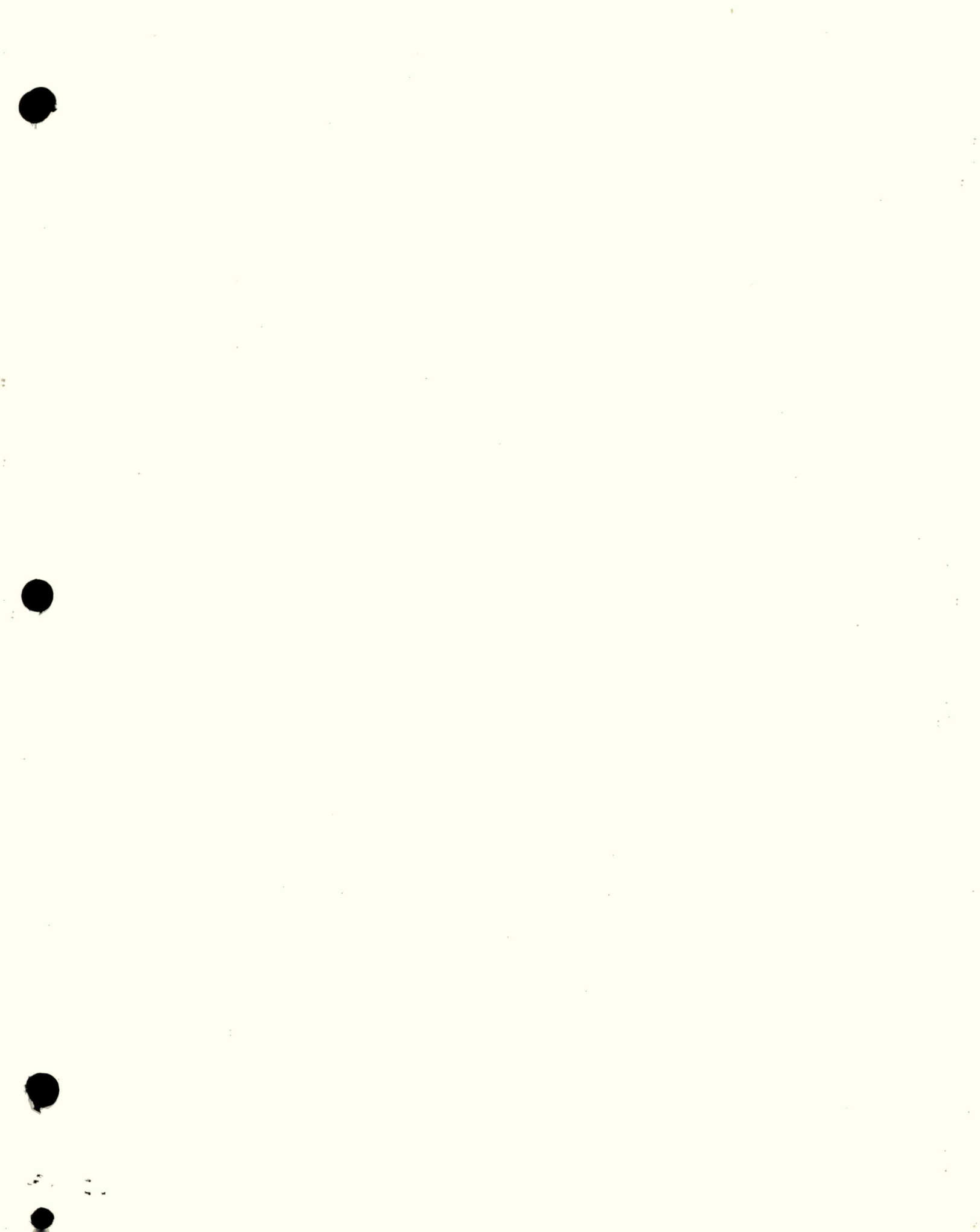
QUESTION OF METHODS OF FACT-FINDING

Preliminary Statement to be made by Canadian  
Representative on Sixth Committee M. A. W. Robertson

Mr. Chairman,

Canada was a co-sponsor of the original proposal put forward by the Netherlands in 1963 for a study by the Secretary-General of possible methods of fact-finding. In keeping with the general Canadian approach to the development of the peaceful settlement of disputes, ~~an approach~~ *as an integral part of* ~~conditioned by our experience with~~ United Nations peace-keeping activities in many areas, we have supported in the past and will continue actively to support further examination of the suggestion that some sort of permanent organ, able to accumulate experience in impartial fact-finding, might have a positive role to play in the contribution to the peaceful settlement of disputes between states.

*therefore*  
In speaking on this item in general debate on this subject I would like to make clear from the outset that my Delegation is very much in favour of the proposal which was tabled a few days ago as Document A/C.6/L.624 of October 31, 1967. We believe that the position of delegations in respect to the question of methods of fact-finding was made clear during the debate on this item last year and therefore that little can be gained at this stage in our proceedings from what in fact can only be a continuation and repetition of those discussions. That is why we support the idea of the establishment of a working group at this stage. We share the belief of the co-sponsors of this proposal that an examination of the documentation and suggestions which have already been made in relation to this item by such a working group will produce useful additional material, in the form of recommendations and suggestions.



Without in any way attempting to prejudge what those recommendations might be my Delegation believes that only in the light of such recommendations can general debate on this item this year of a constructive and worthwhile nature take place. It is for this reason that it is our hope Mr. Chairman that the Sixth Committee will agree to the proposal before it. If it does then naturally we would wish to speak again, later in the debate, addressing ourselves more to substance, in the light of the working group's recommendations.

If however the proposal is not adopted, then my Delegation will want to speak again when the general debate is resumed, for the purpose of making clearer its detailed views on the subject of fact-finding itself.

