

XXII U.N.G.A. - SIXTH COMMITTEE - ITEM 95
DEFINITION OF AGGRESSION
EXPLANATION OF VOTE DELIVERED IN SIXTH COMMITTEE BY
THE CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1967.

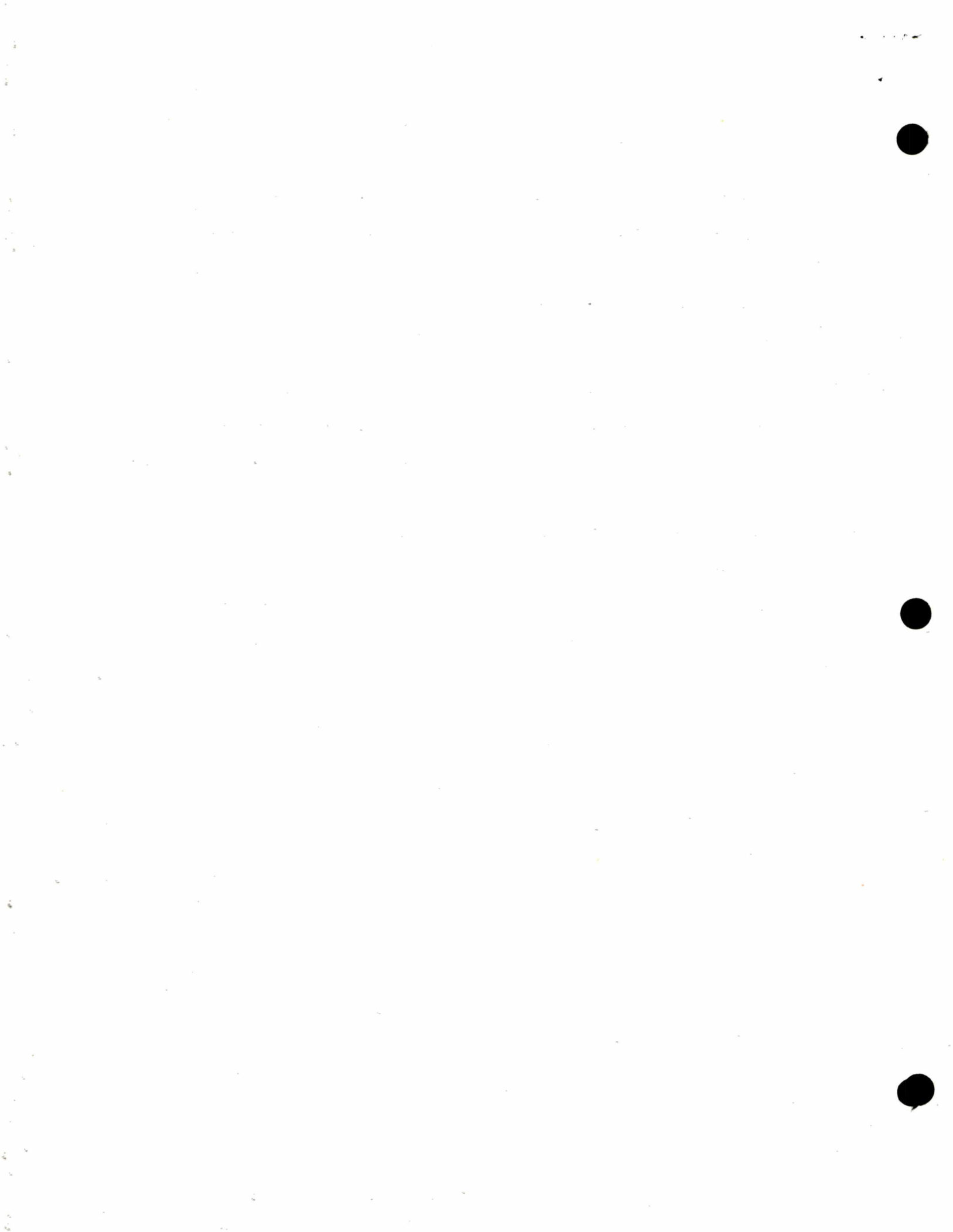
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Mr. Chairman,

When my delegation spoke on this item in Plenary we suggested that, in our view, an attempt to define aggression at this time was not urgent, that this was not an opportune time to make such an attempt, and that the debate that far had revealed the difficulties inherent in the question. We nonetheless made clear that we were prepared to support such an attempt if it was the majority view that a fresh effort should be made.

It has become clear, Mr. Chairman, during the course of the debate on this item in this committee that the majority of the delegations represented here do so desire to attempt this task and to establish a committee. My delegation, therefore, would have supported any resolution which would have provided that at least certain steps including the establishment of a committee would be taken this year towards an eventual definition but not one which required the actual task of definition itself to begin at this stage. Canada would have, therefore, been happier had the earlier informal resolution ^{that} L. 644 is based on which was available yesterday at noon, succeeded in obtaining enough support to have been put forward.

Unfortunately, those proposals were not sufficiently far-reaching to secure the informal support of enough of the members of this committee. We therefore had to vote instead on draft resolution L. 644. Canada abstained on this resolution for reasons which relate closely to those advanced by the distinguished delegate of Jamaica, when he explained his vote. Though the language in operative paragraph 3



should not, in our opinion, be interpreted necessarily to mean that the Committee to be established is given a mandate to attempt to draw up a definition, our view is that the original language in the informal draft was preferable. We did not consider that we could support the present text and therefore the resolution as a whole.

I wish to add only that the legal difficulties militating against a successful definition are surely in themselves sufficient to complicate this work, without the further problems raised by those politically motivated controversies which have almost always been associated with such efforts in the past. We therefore hope that the special committee's work on this question will be free from unnecessary polemics and that a serious effort will be made by all concerned to approach the subject as lawyers desirous of contributing to the peacekeeping potential of the U.N.

