CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT

PRESS RELEASE No. 88

November 27, 1967

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Press Office
Suite 250
866 United Nations Plaza
New York, N. Y. 10017
PLaza 1-5600

CHINESE REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS

Text of Statement to be made in explanation of vote in the General Assembly by the Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mr. George Ignatieff, on Monday, November 27, 1967.

I wish briefly to explain the votes of the Canadian delegation on the various resolutions on Chinese Representation before the Assembly.

We are naturally disappointed that again this year the Chinese representation issue has not been brought any closer to a solution.

The Canadian delegation will, in accordance with long-established Canadian policy, vote in favour of the concept that this matter is an important one, not only in the specific juridical terms of Article 18 of the Charter, but also in the far broader and more general context of international relations. We believe that while there may be strong pressures for a solution based on the views of a simple majority of our membership, such a solution would in fact be unworkable unless at least two-thirds of our Members gave it their active support, including I would suggest the major world powers.

On the substance of the issue, we will abstain as we did last year on the resolution put forward by Cambodia and a group of co-sponsors. That resolution, drafted in familiar terms, is no more satisfactory to us than the only other option with which this Assembly has been presented--that is to ignore the existence of the People's Republic of China. The Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, suggested to this Assembly last year that neither of these options took account of the fundamental changes which have occurred in China since the United Nations was established. Nor did they point to a rational solution of the problem. He suggested at that time

that rather than continue in either of these two sterile directions, the Assembly might better address itself to seeking an interim arrangement which would allow the maximum participation of the people of China in the work of our Organization without depriving those who already belong of the voice to which they have as much right as anyone else in this Assembly. This, I would emphasize, is not, as some have called it, a "two-China" policy.

The essence of the Canadian position was last year and is now that the representatives of both governments should be seated here as an interim solution pending the settlement of the jurisdictional dispute between them. We believe that, irrespective of the new factors which recent developments on the mainland have introduced, we must continue to work towards the eventual and, in our view, necessary and effective association of the People's Republic of China with the international community. Because the resolution accomplishes only part of our objective and does not, in our view, provide a reasonable way out of the present impasse on the Chinese representation issue, we will abstain on this proposal as we did at the last Assembly.

As to Resolution A/L.533, we will vote in favour of this proposal as we did last year in the belief that its acceptance by the Assembly would mark a different and possibly fruitful approach to this issue.

As Mr. Martin said in discussing the Chinese representation question at the Twenty-first United Nations General Assembly:

> "We think that what is at issue here is the capacity of the United Nations to live up to the purposes of the Charter, to represent the world as it is, and to bring the great weight of its influence to bear on the issues of peace and security. Although, in the nature of things, we can only move forward on the basis of resolutions, I think I have made it clear that, in our view, this issue is not amenable to solution on that basis alone. It will require the exercise of diplomacy, goodwill and accommodation on all sides, both within our Organization and without. If that is the spirit in which the solution of this issue is approached, then I am not unhopeful that we may be able to unblock the road to progress towards making the United Nations a more effective, a more representative and a more credible forum of international deliberation and action."