CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SEVENTEENTH SESSION

RELEASE ON DELIVERY

PRESS RELEASE NO. 23
Press Office
750 Third Avenue
YUkon 6-5740
December 12, 1962.

ITEM 75: CONSIDERATION OF PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW CONCERNING FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND CO-OPERATION AMONG STATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

STATEMENT BY MR. N. N. GENSER,
CANADIAN DELEGATE ON THE SIXTH COMMITTEE,
DECEMBER 12, 1962.

It gives me very great pleasure to be able to participate in the introduction of this compromise resolution. I believe it is no secret that the discussions leading to agreement on its terms were long and difficult. We all recognize the intrinsic importance and complexity of the questions involved, and it is, I think, a tribute to the goodwill on the part of all concerned that agreement was reached. May I express my appreciation not only to Dr. Pechota and Dr. Nincic for their friendly and constructive approach to this problem, but also to our eminent Legal Counsel of the United Nations, Mr. Stavropoulos, whose patience and wisdom made no little contribution to the successful conclusion of our talks.

I know that we all concur with the distinguished representative of Chile who said, when speaking on another matter, that general agreement should not be an end in itself when it requires a compromise on principle. The merit, I would suggest, of the present resolution, is that it represents an honourable compromise. Like all compromises, of course, it is not perfect. When considered, however, in the light of the favourable implications which unanimous agreement on these difficult and potentially contentious questions can have for the future work of the Sixth Committee in the coming years, then its full importance can be appreciated. The agreement augurs well

for our future studies, and it is not, I believe, an overstatement to say that the opportunity which we all hoped for last year of being able to commence serious studies of principles of international law concerning friendly relations and co-operation among states in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations has been realized in concrete form.