

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement No. 87

December 12, 1966

NON-INTERVENTION

Text of Statement made in the First Committee by the Canadian Representative, Mr. Paul Beaulieu, in explanation of vote on Item 96 (Status of the implementation of the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of their Independence and Sovereignty) on Monday, December 12, 1966

Canada believes that the principle to which this item relates, that of non-intervention, is of the greatest importance and that it is therefore appropriate that the United Nations should concern itself with this matter. In doing so at the 20th session, the General Assembly, with the support of my delegation, adopted Resolution 2131 (XX), the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of their Independence and Sovereignty.

The Canadian Delegation would like to draw the attention of the Committee to our statement on December 9, 1965, and our explanation of vote on December 20, 1965, during the discussion at the 20th Session. At that time we stated that there was a need to ensure that any decisions which might be adopted in the field of non-intervention should have the full weight of the world community behind them; and should be broad enough to embrace one of the most significant and dangerous types of intervention which has become a feature of present day relations. We had in mind intervention which begins in a clandestine way and employs the techniques of subversion and terrorism.

My Delegation continues to believe that the principle of non-intervention needs to be clearly delineated in a way which will have lasting value in terms of international law. Accordingly, like a number of other delegations, the Canadian Delegation believes that the principle of non-intervention requires further study by the Special Committee on the Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations. That Committee can provide a forum for more detailed and careful examination of the non-intervention principle than we are able to provide. The Special Committee can also conduct its examination with a view to establishing a juridical

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

principle like other principles which it has under consideration.

Taking the above considerations into account my Delegation has examined the amendments introduced by 19 Latin American delegations and now co-sponsored by 36 delegations in Document A/C.1/L.388/Rev.1 and, conscious of the efforts made to develop an acceptable text, is prepared to vote in favour of them. On the assumption that these amendments are adopted we are also prepared to vote in favour of the draft resolution as amended. In doing so I must recall that, as we said on this occasion last year, our action here is basically of a political nature and should not be allowed to prejudge the further development on a legal basis of the principle of non-intervention.

