

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(FIFTEENTH SESSION)

RELEASE ON DELIVERY

PRESS RELEASE NO. 31
December 17, 1960.

Press Office,
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Explanation of Vote on Draft Resolution Against
the Wider Dissemination of Nuclear Weapons, Document
A/C.1/L.253, Rev. 1, Given by Mr. W. B. Nesbitt, Q.C.,
M. P., Chairman of the Delegation of Canada, in the
First Committee on Saturday, December 17, 1960

Mr. Chairman:

The Canadian Delegation has voted in favour of the resolution sponsored by Ireland and other countries in Document 253, Rev. 1, because we believe that the spread of nuclear weapons to an ever-increasing number of countries would pose a threat to mankind. We consider that the only satisfactory way to dispel the dangers inherent in this possibility is through international agreement on a comprehensive and carefully verified system of disarmament. We are therefore happy to see that emphasis is placed in this resolution on the necessity of achieving permanent agreement. I stress the word "permanent" because we consider that anything less than an agreement which would apply to all countries and for all time would only continue to leave us a prey to the doubts and fears which we all feel so acutely at this time.

Nonetheless, we believe that, pending the realization of permanent agreement other admittedly less satisfactory measures designed to prevent the widespread dissemination of nuclear weapons are also worthy of encouragement. As a result, we support the provisions in the resolution which call for temporary measures to combat the spread of such weapons.

Here again, however, I must emphasize the importance of the time factor. We have stressed over and over again the necessity of resuming negotiations on disarmament and we think that the threat of the further spread of nuclear weapons is one of the most important reasons for getting on with these negotiations. If no steps are taken toward disarmament - if, indeed, we do not have even a beginning to serious negotiations on this subject - no country will be content to sit

RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(1950)

PROCESSED BY THE SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
750 Third Avenue
New York 17, N.Y.

RELEASE ON BELIEF

Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly
on the subject of the Middle East, adopted on November 21, 1950.

The General Assembly has voted in favour of the resolution
sponsored by India and other countries in paragraph 1 of the
resolution because we believe that the threat of nuclear weapons
increasingly hangs over the world and that the only way to
prevent this is by the elimination of nuclear weapons. We
consider that any agreement which would result in the
elimination of nuclear weapons is a step towards the
achievement of a world of peace and security. We are therefore
in favour of the resolution and we call upon all States to
co-operate in the achievement of this goal.

The General Assembly has also voted in favour of the
resolution on the subject of the Middle East, adopted on
November 21, 1950. We believe that the resolution is a
step towards the achievement of a world of peace and
security. We are therefore in favour of the resolution
and we call upon all States to co-operate in the
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by in the hope that goodwill alone will prevent the widespread dissemination of these weapons. For our part, I must say quite clearly that Canada would not be able to accept this state of affairs for very long. We have worked and we will continue to work with every resource at our command to achieve an agreement on disarmament which would include provisions to deal with the frightening problem of nuclear weapons. If, however, there is no significant progress in this field in the immediate future, we will reconsider our position on the temporary measures which are proposed in this resolution.

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MINNEAPOLIS

