

CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT

PRESS RELEASE NO. 51

December 14, 1965

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY

Press Office
750 Third Avenue
New York, N.Y.
YUkon 6-5740

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES - Item 99

Text of Statement on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes
To be Delivered in the Special Political Committee
by the Canadian Representative, Mr. Paul Beaulieu,
On Tuesday, December 14, 1965.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to take this opportunity to explain briefly why Canada supports the resolution. May I first commend the United Kingdom Delegation for taking this initiative which my Government believes is important and timely and which we take pleasure in co-sponsoring.

Canada has been a member of the Special Committee on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation Among States and is conscious of the significance of the principles which have been under discussion by that Committee, of which peaceful settlement of disputes is one. We are hopeful that the Special Committee will continue its work and report to the 21st Session. Nevertheless we realize that that Committee is concerned primarily with the legal aspects of principles of friendly relations and we can see merit in a separate study of the wider aspects, both legal and political, of the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes.

It is often said that the will to settle disputes peacefully is more important than the means employed and I agree that there is a point in this observation. Indeed we are under an obligation to settle our disputes peacefully by the terms of the Charter. It is equally true that goodwill requires some adequate means to express itself and that frequently the appropriate means is essential to fruitful results. In other words, will and means are inextricably linked.

It may also be said that the machinery for peaceful settlement already exists and that States have only to use it. That observation too contains a good deal of truth but my Government can see only advantage in a study which would bring this machinery once more to our attention and suggest ways of improving it or of supplementing it. We would hope in particular that the Committee of Government Representatives referred to in operative paragraph 1 of the resolution will take advantage of the vast experience accumulated by the United Nations over the past twenty years, with a view to concluding what lessons may be drawn from the work

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

DATE: 10/15/54

SUBJECT: [Illegible]

CLASSIFICATION: [Illegible]

REFERENCE: [Illegible]

1. [Illegible]

2. [Illegible]

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

3. [Illegible]

[Illegible text]

of this Organization which may in future years help strengthen the possibilities of peaceful settlement and peaceful change. We have in mind, for example, the repertoire of practice of the United Nations organs and the report of the Secretary-General on methods of fact-finding submitted to the Special Committee on Friendly Relations last year. We have in mind also any additional material which the Secretariat may be asked to produce on fact-finding as a result of consideration of that subject in the Sixth Committee. We believe indeed that fact-finding is an essential part of peaceful settlement and that the Secretary-General, who has been in a unique position to understand the various ways, often informal and ad hoc, in which international disputes have been dealt with in recent years, can be particularly useful to the proposed Committee in this regard.

I should also like to draw attention to references in operative paragraph 3 to the experience of the specialized agencies of the United Nations and of regional organizations in this field. Regional mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes may well be one of the most encouraging avenues we can explore. It is not to be forgotten that Article 33 of the Charter specifically enjoins Member States to seek a solution of their disputes "first of all" by various means, including "resort to regional agencies or arrangements", and that sometimes in our anxiety to bring disputes before the United Nations we may overlook this wise provision of the Charter. In saying this, of course, I am speaking only of priorities. Naturally the United Nations can not be indifferent to disputes between Member States, whether or not they are taken in hand by resort to machinery outside the United Nations framework.

Canada is also particularly conscious of the relationship between the peaceful settlement of disputes and peacekeeping operations. I would recall in this regard, Mr. Chairman, the words of the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada to the General Assembly on September 24 last: "The time has come to ensure that peacekeeping is intimately linked with peaceful settlement. The former, essential as it is, should not be permitted to obscure or divert the purposes of the latter The parties to a dispute should not expect to enjoy the benefits of United Nations intervention without accepting responsibility to settle their differences and thus facilitate the earliest possible termination of peacekeeping measures."

It might accordingly be useful for the proposed Committee to pay special attention to the relationship between the settlement of disputes in the immediate sense of successful avoidance by the United Nations of armed conflict and war, and settlement of disputes in the deeper and longer-term sense, as a part of the process of peaceful evolution and change in the world. It is certainly true that the interdiction of force and the avoidance of international conflict are factors which, in present international order, require States to adjust their disputes peacefully. But if they fail to find genuinely acceptable solutions, disputes tend to smoulder and then to threaten the status quo. What would therefore be desirable is to study how temporary and long-term solutions must be

Faint, illegible text at the top of the page, possibly a header or introductory paragraph.

Second block of faint, illegible text, appearing as several lines of a letter or document.

Third block of faint, illegible text, continuing the document's content.

Fourth block of faint, illegible text, located in the lower half of the page.

inter-related, so that the international community may ensure that peace-keeping in the immediate sense is only a step towards the achievement of peaceful, orderly and equitable change in relations between States.

For these reasons, Mr. Chairman, I am happy to recommend this resolution to members of this Committee and express the hope that it will receive wide support.

1944 - 1945
1946 - 1947
1948 - 1949
1950 - 1951
1952 - 1953
1954 - 1955
1956 - 1957
1958 - 1959
1960 - 1961
1962 - 1963
1964 - 1965
1966 - 1967
1968 - 1969
1970 - 1971
1972 - 1973
1974 - 1975
1976 - 1977
1978 - 1979
1980 - 1981
1982 - 1983
1984 - 1985
1986 - 1987
1988 - 1989
1990 - 1991
1992 - 1993
1994 - 1995
1996 - 1997
1998 - 1999
2000 - 2001
2002 - 2003
2004 - 2005
2006 - 2007
2008 - 2009
2010 - 2011
2012 - 2013
2014 - 2015
2016 - 2017
2018 - 2019
2020 - 2021
2022 - 2023
2024 - 2025