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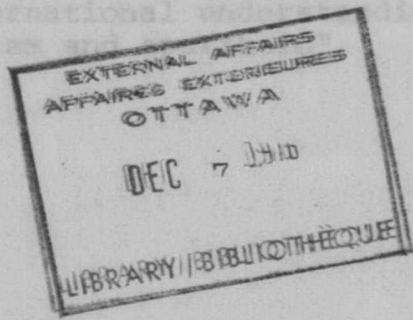
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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Hon. Don Jamieson, has released the notes for delivery today by the Canadian Delegation to the General Conference of UNESCO at Nairobi during the session of a draft declaration on the mass media.

The agenda item is entitled "Draft Declaration on Fundamental Principles Governing the Use of the Mass Media in Strengthening Peace and International Understanding and Combating War Propaganda, Racism and Religious Intolerance".

Text of the notes follows:



CANADIAN POSITION ON  
UNESCO MASS MEDIA DRAFT DECLARATION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, has released the notes for a speech delivered today by the Canadian Delegation to the 19th General Conference of UNESCO at Nairobi during consideration of a draft declaration on the mass media.

The agenda item is entitled "Draft declaration on fundamental principles governing the use of the mass media in strengthening peace and international understanding and in combating war propaganda, racism and apartheid".

-- Text of the notes follows:

Mr. Chairman,

In the recent Canadian statement in the general debate, our delegation stressed the view that important UNESCO decisions ought to be able to command the support of all the important groups within this assembly, at least sufficiently to receive their tacit acceptance. We believe that, in its present form, this clearly would not be the case with respect to the substance of this item, for a variety of reasons which have already been pointed out.

It had been our original intention to intervene only very briefly in this debate, simply to draw attention to the fact that this is a matter in which we believe a consensual approach is necessary and to suggest that this Commission is not the proper forum in which to tackle the substance of the draft.

However, a number of statements were made in the course of yesterday's prolonged procedural discussions on which I now wish to comment. First of all, there were the allegations, advanced by various supporters of the Soviet-Iraq draft resolution, that the draft declaration in its present form has gained broad support. That, of course, is simply not true. Representatives of only 41 member states have approved this text, whereas, of the remaining 99 member states of this Organization, more than 50 (well over half) were not even present at the Paris meeting, while the remainder, which were represented, either did not vote on it at all or voted against it, with the exception of 3 which abstained. Second, there were the suggestions that this declaration was not in fact either controversial or divisive, suggestions which I believe the relevant intervention of the distinguished representative of France effectively countered in general terms. Here I would like to make the Canadian position quite clear. Again, in a general statement to Plenary, we pointed out that certain initiatives taken at general conferences and in other meetings of UNESCO have run up against beliefs strongly held by Canadians on human rights, on the role of the state in society and on freedom of expression. That reference was directed towards the draft declaration which, in its present form, simply is not acceptable to Canada and could not be endorsed by us.

This is true both of the underlying philosophical approach, which we regard as favouring state control and more particularly with specific elements in the draft. These include preambulatory paragraph 5 with its totally unacceptable reference to UNGA 3379 XXX and operative paragraphs VIII, X and XII. We believe the scope of VIII

will be excessively restricted in that it does not provide the same right to be heard to victims of persecution on political and religious grounds or to any peoples in states not categorized as "as under foreign occupation by aggression". It is the repercussions of state control in the other two articles that I have referred to that are unacceptable to us.

Canada, therefore, Mr. Chairman, associates itself with the positions which have just been expressed on this divisive matter on behalf of the European Nine and of the Nordic countries. Since we do not consider this an appropriate form in which to try to draft a document of such importance, and in which to try to reconcile such widely divergent views and philosophies as those which separate us from its supporters, we will not, therefore, participate in any substantive discussions of the text as such.

Before closing, Mr. Chairman, let me draw attention to one other thing. That is the extreme importance for UNESCO of the outcome of this debate. In our general statement, again with this item in mind, we drew attention to the fact that the so-called politicization of our organization has given rise to a certain degree of disenchantment in Canada, particularly in scientific and university circles, and has tarnished somewhat the prestige of UNESCO. I am sure this is also the case within academic and intellectual communities of all Western democratic states, and yet, it is this same academic and intellectual community on which UNESCO should be able to rely for its greatest support and to which it ought to be able to turn for assistance in its programmes. Quite aside from any possible political or financial results which might flow from the eventual adoption of this declaration, I believe it would be especially harmful to our Organization if that were to result in its being cut off from a major segment of its intellectual support.