

CANADIAN DELEGATION

DELEGATION DU CANADA

TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

New York,
December 9, 1946

FIRST COMMITTEE: SUB-COMMITTEE 3

DELEGATION OF CANADA: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
PARAGRAPH 1 AS ADOPTED ON FIRST READING

Sir,

1. The first paragraph of the Resolution now before the Sub-Committee was adopted on first reading with the understanding that the Sub-Committee would return to it after going through the other paragraphs.
2. The Canadian delegation suggests that it would be desirable if the second and third sentences of this paragraph were clarified in the light of the discussions in the Sub-Committee. Otherwise the intent of these sentences may not be entirely clear to the general public.
3. The Canadian delegation therefore proposes that the second sentence of paragraph 1 be amended by adding after the word "Accordingly", the words

"the General Assembly, under Article 11 of the Charter, calls to the attention of the Members of the United Nations and of the Security Council this Resolution on the principles which shall govern disarmament and the regulation of armaments."

The rest of the sentence would remain unchanged. It would begin:

"The General Assembly recommends that the Security Council give prompt consideration to formulating the practical measures" et cetera.

This would draw attention to the constitutional basis of the adoption by the General Assembly of the proposed disarmament resolution. The

The Secretary,
Sub-Committee 3 of the First Committee,
United Nations.

/adoption

adoption of this resolution by the General Assembly would constitute the first stage in the process of disarmament. The formulation of plans by the Security Council would constitute the second stage in the process of disarmament.

4. The Canadian delegation also proposes that the last sentence of the paragraph be amended to read as follows (new words underlined):

"The plans formulated by the Security Council shall be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Members of the United Nations for consideration at a special session of the General Assembly. The treaties or conventions approved by the General Assembly shall be submitted to the signatory States /Members/ for ratification in accordance with Article 26 of the Charter."

The adoption of this language would make clear the nature of the third and fourth stages in the disarmament process. The third stage is the consideration by all Members of the United Nations of the plans formulated by the Security Council. The fourth stage is the ratification and coming into force of the treaties or conventions approved of by the General Assembly. The language used leaves it to the Security Council to decide whether to embody its plans for disarmament in draft treaties or conventions or in less formal proposals. The Security Council would be playing the role of a preparatory commission on disarmament. The special session of the General Assembly would be the equivalent of a general disarmament conference.

5. The first paragraph as thus amended would read as follows:

"With a view to strengthening international peace and security in conformity with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations, the General Assembly recognizes the necessity of an early general regulation and reduction of armaments. Accordingly the General Assembly, under Article 11 of the Charter, calls to the attention of the Members of the United Nations and of the Security Council that regulation on the principles which shall govern disarmament and the regulation of armaments. The General Assembly recommends that the Security Council give prompt consideration to formulating the practical measures, according to their priority, which are essential to provide for the general regulation and reduction of armaments and to assure that such regulation and reduction will be generally observed by all

/participants

participants and not unilaterally by only some of the participants. The plans formulated by the Security Council shall be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Members of the United Nations for consideration at a special session of the General Assembly. The treaties or conventions approved by the General Assembly shall be submitted to the signatory States for ratification in accordance with Article 26 of the Charter."

Yours sincerely,

/s/ L. D. Wilgress

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