



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 54/50 INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN DEVELOPING
THE PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY

Statement delivered on November 5, 1954, by (the Minister of National Health and Welfare) and Vice-Chairman of the Canadian Delegation to ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Paul Martin.

In Plenary session yesterday afternoon, the General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution on disarmament. We turn now to what is, in a sense, the other half of the coin. The object of comprehensive, controlled disarmament is to eliminate war and the risk of atomic energy being used for destructive purposes. Until last December it was assumed that international co-operation in the development of peaceful uses must follow rather than precede disarmament.

Now, although we may be making headway on some aspects of the disarmament problem our differences are still far from resolved. In the course of the debate on the present item we shall all have an opportunity of examining the proposition that the time has come, without waiting for agreement on all aspects of a comprehensive disarmament programme, to move forward towards fuller international co-operation, through the United Nations, in developing the positive benefits for all mankind which our knowledge of the atom even now makes possible, to say nothing of the vast promise of the future.

It is a great satisfaction to my Delegation -- and I am sure to all of us, Mr. Chairman -- that this effort is being discussed in the United Nations and that the aim of the sponsoring powers is to set up an agency closely related to the United Nations. I shall have more to say on this point later in my statement, but let me reiterate here that this is one field in which the United Nations should not, and I am confident will not, be by-passed. The potentialities of the controlled release of atomic energy to serve man's welfare are so enormous that their development cannot but be regarded, by all who are equipped to contribute to this great enterprise, as a sacred trust. The United Nations is an obvious and indeed unique repository for this trust.