

success of the conference have been confirmed by the formal report of the Secretary-General which we have before us. The Canadian scientists who were at Geneva have been most enthusiastic about the Conference. I must confess that there was initially among our scientists considerable apprehension about the possibility of success of this conference. There were misgivings, in the first place, that a scientific conference should be run by a primarily political organization such as the United Nations; scientists felt, in the second place, that the subject matter was so broad and the interests of the different national delegates so varied that it would be impossible to arrange a conference that would satisfy both the experts who wished to discuss the details of the latest reactor and the novices who came to Geneva for their initial indoctrination into the principles of atomic energy; to arrange such a conference would under any circumstances, present enormous difficulties but to undertake an operation of this magnitude and complexity in the time allowed by the General Assembly resolution was to invite disappointment. That these fears have proved groundless is a measure of the tremendous achievement of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee, Conference Secretary-General Professor Walter G. Whitman, and the Secretariat staff. Equally impressive was the performance of the distinguished Indian scientist, Dr. Homi J. Bhabha, who in his capacity as President contributed so greatly to the success of the Conference. Our delegation had nothing but words of praise to say of Dr. Bhabha's striking contribution. It is our opinion that all who went to Geneva returned with the feeling that they had gained immeasurably in knowledge of the potentials of atomic energy and it is our belief that the proceedings of this Conference will constitute a significant and lasting contribution to the application of atomic energy for the benefit of all mankind.

One of the most encouraging features of the Conference was the work, as the previous speaker has indicated, of the Secretary-General's Advisory Committee. To them was due both the initial planning and the general supervisions of the Conference, and it is most reassuring to find that the technical experts from seven countries agreed so amicably and expeditiously on the essentials of this Conference. I would be unduly modest if I did not say that Canada has been proud to be represented on this body. The Canadian Government hopes that this Advisory Committee will be continued to deal with the unfinished business arising from the Conference and to develop proposals for similar conferences in the future. In this connection we have noted with interest the suggestions made by the distinguished representative of the Soviet Union.

In our opinion the principal benefits of this conference, one of the largest and most successful scientific meetings ever held, were three fold:

- I The release to the public domain of a great mass of scientific information which had hitherto been secret;
- II The opportunity for scientists and engineers from all over the world to learn at first hand of the work of their confreres in other lands, and to discuss common problems;
- III The focussing of public attention not only on the role which atomic power is expected to play in the future, but also on the formidable problems which must be overcome before it can be exploited to economic advantage throughout the world.