



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1955.

The Department of External Affairs announced today that the Canadian Government has accepted the invitation of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to participate in the forthcoming International Scientific Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy.

The Conference, which will meet in Geneva from August 8 to August 20, 1955, has been called as a result of a resolution unanimously adopted at the last session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. The resolution states that the purpose of the Conference will be "to explore means of developing peaceful uses of atomic energy through international co-operation, and in particular, to study the development of atomic power and to consider other technical areas - such as biology, medicine, radiation protection; and fundamental science - in which international co-operation might most effectively be accomplished". Canada was a co-sponsor of the resolution and in the debate on it in the General Assembly, the Honourable Paul Martin, Minister of National Health and Welfare and Acting Chairman of the Canadian Delegation, expressed the view that the Conference would provide "The first occasion to focus world-wide attention on the efforts of countries with the experience in atomic energy to speed the development of peaceful applications by making freely available the knowledge thus far acquired".

As Mr. Martin revealed at that time, the Canadian contribution to the Conference will consist of a number of scientific papers dealing with Canada's special experience in the peaceful application of atomic energy, particularly in the fields of uranium production and power reactor technology.

Dr. W.B. Lewis, Vice-President, Research and Development, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, will be responsible for co-ordinating the Canadian contribution to the Conference and has already assisted with the preliminary arrangements for the Conference as Canadian member of a committee set up to advise the Secretary-General of the United Nations. He will be attending the Conference accompanied by a delegation of scientists from both Government and private agencies.