

No. 54/33/UN 9/10 PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY

Text of a statement on November 9, 1954, by the Minister of National Health and Welfare and Acting Chairman of the Canadian Delegation, Mr. Paul Martin in the First Committee at the ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, on agenda item 67 - International co-operation in developing the peaceful uses of atomic energy: Report of the United States of America.

Note: The text of a resolution adopted by the Committee and the results of the voting are included at the end of the statement.

I am grateful to you and to the Committee for this opportunity to intervene briefly, although I have already spoken in the general debate. I feel it desirable to make a suggestion that may clarify one point in the resolution which stands in the name of seven countries. Of course, I refer to Resolution A/C.1/L.105 of November 6.

As members of the Committee will have noticed, this Resolution proposes that an International Scientific Conference should be held next summer to explore means of developing the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The Secretary-General is requested in the resolution to issue invitations to this Conference, to prepare and circulate a detailed agenda and to provide for the necessary staff and services. In carrying out this request of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General would be acting upon the advice of a small committee composed of the representatives of certain countries. In the resolution which is before us, members of the Committee will note there is a blank where the names of these countries to be represented on the Advisory Committee will appear.

The sponsors of the resolution have recently been considering which countries should, in their judgment, be represented on this Advisory Committee. We believe - and I am sure that the Committee as a whole will not disagree - that it is desirable that the Committee should be both compact and small in the interests of efficiency and operation. It is intended to advise the Secretary-General on rather technical questions concerning the preparations for a Scientific Conference in a highly specialized field. To take for example, the question of the agenda, it will be appreciated that the Secretary-General should be advised by those most competent to judge which subjects, from among the whole range of possible peaceful uses of atomic energy, should be given priority at the Scientific Conference. In other words, the members of the Advisory Committee should either be technically competent people themselves or should be able to draw on the technical experience of their governments.