

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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CANADA AND THE REPORT OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

A speech delivered by Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, Canadian Permanent Delegate to the United Nations, in the First Committee of the Third Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in Paris, on September 30, 1948.

The matter of the consideration of atomic energy comes before the General Assembly of the United Nations and before this Committee in consequence of a resolution which I had the privilege of presenting to the Security Council on 22 June 1948. This resolution provides merely for the transmission of the three reports of the Atomic Energy Commission, but it goes on to say that these matters are a subject of very special concern.

This resolution of transmittal followed the exercise of the veto by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics against the proposal which had been presented previously by the United States of America on behalf of a number of members who had joined with them in preparing a resolution endorsing the majority report to which the resolution refers.

I think it is very important for this Committee to understand why the majority of members of the Atomic Energy Commission were so anxious to have the case come on to the General Assembly, and I do not believe that I can do better than to quote the remarks which I myself made in the Security Council following the exercise of the veto against the United States resolution and in proposing the resolution which was in fact adopted by the Council. I then said:

"The veto which has just been imposed by the representative of the Soviet Union has the effect of preventing the Security Council from taking a decision on the reports of the Atomic Energy Commission. This vitally important matter obviously cannot be left to rest there. It is essential, as I have already stated in this Council, that the General Assembly, which established the Commission and defined its responsibilities, should be fully apprised of the work which has been done by the Commission. The General Assembly should also be informed of the situation in which the Commission now finds itself and, as stated in the third report, this situation arises principally from conditions with which the Commission is not competent to deal.

...../"The General