



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

STATEMENT ON ATOMIC ENERGY

An address by the Hon. Lionel Chevrier,
Acting Head of the Canadian Delegation
to the Third Session of the General
Assembly of the United Nations, at Paris,
in the First Committee on October 18,
1948.

The report of the sub-committee on atomic energy indicates that eight of the eleven members of that sub-committee gave their support to a resolution on atomic energy, the text of which is now before you in Document A/C.1/333. This draft resolution carries forward the substance of the original Canadian resolution on atomic energy, which was submitted to this Committee on September 30th and it includes likewise the intent of the New Zealand resolution which I accepted for inclusion at our meeting on October 7th. The Canadian delegation regards this new form of its resolution as a marked improvement on the first drafts, and we are grateful for the opportunity which we have had for discussion in sub-committee. We are grateful also for the intelligent and useful contributions which other delegations have made towards its improvement, and particularly to France, Sweden, Ecuador and the United States. It now stands, Mr. Chairman, in the name of the eight delegations which supported it in the sub-committee. These are Brazil, Canada, China, Ecuador, France, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. My colleague from Ecuador expressed in sub-committee reservations concerning one paragraph, but these reservations did not prevent him from giving his generous support to the resolution as a whole.

In its criticism of the majority resolution, and of the approach to the problem of atomic energy which is embodied in it, the USSR continually misrepresents this resolution by failing to take account of its positive character. They say that the majority resolution closes the door to further progress towards the international control of atomic energy and the prohibition of atomic weapons. This description of the majority resolution is false. It will remain false no matter how many times it is repeated and no matter how violently this view may be expressed by the representative of the Soviet Union. The truth is that the majority resolution contains an affirmation of a workable and practical procedure by which the world can rid itself of the menace of atomic warfare and gain for itself freedom to reap the full benefits of atomic energy in its many and varied applications in the peaceful arts and sciences. It is of the utmost importance that delegations here should realize these facts clearly and precisely. The existence of grave dangers on the one hand and of important benefits on the other should not be blurred by the repetition, couched in elusive language, by the USSR of their proposals. These proposals have been considered time and again, and have been given a most careful, painstaking and time-consuming analysis. They have always been found to be receptive and to offer no real basis of agreement. It is the majority proposal alone which holds out to the world a real chance to free for peaceful uses the development of atomic energy on a co-operative basis and which offers a real hope that atomic warfare may be eliminated and the people of the world safeguarded against this dreadful possibility. In the firm and confident belief that this assertion is true, and that it will be judged true in history, the Canadian delegation supports the majority resolution.