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PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY

Text of statement to be made in the General Assembly by the Canadian Representative, Mr. Hugh Faulkner, M.P., on December 13, 1967, on the Question of the holding of further conferences on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy (Item 27)

The Canadian delegation is pleased to note the recommendation of the United Nations Scientific Advisory Committee, contained in Document A/6886, that a Fourth International Conference be held on the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

When the Annual Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency was before the Assembly last week, several delegations, including that of Canada, drew attention to the wide range of peaceful uses to which atomic energy is being applied in industry and in agriculture, for example, in the desalination of seawater, in large-scale chemical processes such as metal reduction, and in tree crop culture. In medicine, nuclear energy is being increasingly used in diagnostic procedures and radiation therapy and in basic research on diseases. Radioactive tracers are now being widely used in hydrology, meteorology and in studies of the biosphere.

The increased and varied use of atomic energy has had increasingly beneficial effects on the way of life of an ever-larger proportion of the world's population. The Canadian delegation thus fully agrees with the view of the Scientific Advisory Committee that the peaceful use of atomic energy is a matter of importance not only for scientists and technicians but for public officials, planners, economists and others responsible for policies which are affected both directly and indirectly by the peaceful use of atomic power.

Canada considers that a Fourth International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy would be useful, in particular if it were to deal with the wide spectrum of activities, social and economic, as well as scientific, which have occurred as a result of the growing variety of peaceful uses