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PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Text of Statement to be made by the Canadian Representative, Mr. Hugh Faulkner, M.P., on the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons (Item 96) in the First Committee, on November 28, 1967.

The Memorandum submitted by the USSR in document A/6834 states that, because of the accumulation of large stocks of nuclear weapons in the world and the complicated international situation, the conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons is an "important and urgent" matter.

The Canadian delegation has long been convinced that arms control and disarmament is one of the major tasks confronting the United Nations. The possible further spread of nuclear weapons alarms Canadians, which is why the Canadian delegation is willing to support measures which offer effective means for nuclear weapons control. As has been frequently pointed out it is the sense of insecurity on the part of nations that gives rise to the arms race. Yet it is the arms race in turn which further heightens the sense of insecurity among nations. This leads to the dangerous spiraling of an ever-greater commitment to newer and more sophisticated weapons as part of a programme of self-defence. **This** costly and dangerous trend will not be stopped--not even significantly curtailed--by a declaration prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons. Security of a lasting character must be sought, first, through precise measures to control and limit nuclear weapons as well as other types of armaments, and, second, through agreed measures of disarmament leading to the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons as part of a phased, controlled programme of general disarmament.

As was pointed out by the Canadian representative in the debate on a similar item in this Committee six years ago, the Canadian delegation has every sympathy with the views of those delegations who have over the years supported