

Report of the Secretary General on Nuclear Weapons--item 29b.

Statement to be delivered by
Mr. E.L.V. Burns, in Plenary
on December 19, 1967.



The Canadian delegation has a few observations to make about Draft Resolution 413 on Item 29(b), concerning the Secretary-General's report on the effects of the Use of Nuclear Weapons, and on the Security and Economic implications for states of the acquisition and further development of those weapons, Document A/6853.

The Canadian delegation became a co-sponsor of this resolution because of the importance which my Government attaches to the Secretary-General's report on this vital subject. The impact of the knowledge of the horrific effects which will be produced if nuclear or thermo-nuclear weapons are ever used, has been softened by much repetition. The report contains facts and conclusions the world would like to ignore and forget about. The Secretary-General's report - and particularly its first chapters - bring to us a realization of the sort of questions about which we are concerned. They are questions of the life or death of hundreds of millions of men and women, of the destruction or crippling of civilization as we know it. For this reason - if for no other - we strongly support the provisions of operative paragraphs 5, 6 and 7, which call for the report to be disseminated as widely as is possible at this time.

We must also thank the Secretary-General, the Secretariat, and the group of experts for providing us with a document which will, we are sure, be of great assistance to those of us who are engaged in disarmament discussions at the EDC. The recommendations to this end