

External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

No. 56/5 VIEWS OF CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ON STATUTE OF
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Statement delivered at United Nations Headquarters
Thursday, September 27, by Mr. M.H. Weršhof, Head
of the Canadian Delegation to the Conference on the
Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

I am deeply conscious of the honour and the
responsibility which are mine today in addressing this
assembly on behalf of Canada. The occasion which has
brought us together is by common consent a most important
one, and all of us hope that our labours will be brought
to a successful and fruitful conclusion. We are fortunate
in having the effective leadership of Ambassador Muniz
and Ambassador Winkler and the wise counsel and practical
help of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The world is grateful to the President of the
United States for the initiative he took in proposing the
establishment of an international agency dedicated to the
task of helping to spread the benefits of atomic energy
throughout the globe. It is our responsibility in this
conference to ensure that the Agency which we are going to
establish shall be as well designed for its purpose as we
can make it.

The proposals in the draft statute before us are
as you know, the product of long and careful study by the
representatives of a group of twelve countries particularly
qualified in one way or another to make a useful contribution,
and having the benefit of views submitted to them by a number
of other interested governments. The Conference is aware
that on many points there were divergent views within that
group of twelve which have, through concessions on all sides
and a firm desire to reach acceptable compromises, been
largely reconciled. As the representative of one of the
countries which participated, I hope that the Conference
will consider carefully the advisability of preserving the
balance of views which has been achieved.

It is agreed that the main purpose of the Agency
shall be to facilitate, encourage and assist in the development
and application of peaceful uses of atomic energy in all
countries. It is also agreed that in carrying out this task
the Agency shall take the appropriate steps to ensure that
the assistance which it will provide to individual countries
or groups of countries shall in fact be used for the benefi-
ficient peaceful purposes intended, and not diverted to other
purposes which the collective membership of the Agency would
be unwilling to support. The Agency will require certain
powers and rights to ensure against such diversion, but
these powers will be limited to those necessary for the
purpose. While the achievement of this purpose will no doubt
help to ensure the observance of any agreement concerning a
atomic weapons, that is not a task for this Agency. Its role
in this field will be restricted, in relation to all member
countries, to the activities necessary to the fulfilment of
the Agency's functions in connection with assistance given
by it.