

My delegation cannot give sufficient emphasis to the importance of the preparatory work to be carried out taking into account the role now being played by governments of member states, members of the Specialized Agencies and of the IAEA and other appropriate organizations. When the Secretary-General's report is received, the Canadian delegation believed that the most effective way of continuing preparations for the Conference would be to establish an *ad hoc* preparatory committee, which would work in close co-operation with the Secretary-General. That, of course, is not a matter to be decided at this time, but the Canadian delegation does hope that this method of work will be chosen. Canada will be fully prepared to assist in any way possible in the work of such a committee.

A key question, already worthy of preliminary consideration, is the nature of the proposed Conference. While this also remains to be decided, my delegation can see much merit in a Conference which would be of not more than three weeks duration and which would attract a wide spectrum of participants such as public officials, educators and distinguished journalists as well as technical experts. The Conference should focus its attention, in our view, on questions relating to pollution.

### Canada's Experience

In suggesting concentration on pollution, I should like to offer some explanations in terms of my own country's experience. Canadian experience indicates some of the dimensions and tremendous costs of failure to introduce effective anti-pollution measures at the earliest stages of development. Canada is a young country, still in the process of developing many of its natural resources and building its primary and secondary industries. Canada shares the upper portion of the North American continent with the United States, the world's most industrialized and most urbanized country. Because so many industrial areas are located along the common border between Canada and the United States, we are both naturally concerned with the problems of pollution, and we are engaged in many joint studies and programmes designed to deal with them. I hope that our experience may be helpful within the UN family in defining and attempting to solve some of the more serious problems of pollution.

Allow me to list briefly some of the major problem areas which are of concern to Canada and to our United States neighbours — areas in which we are already considering or taking corrective measures involving international co-operation.

The Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River provide fresh water, hydro-electric power, fish, recreation facilities and shipping access through 1,000 miles of lakes, rivers and canals to the heart of the North American continent. This great inland waterway provides resources and transportation vital to the economic and social welfare of millions of people in both countries. Indeed, the resources of this magnificent river system are so large that our peoples never believed that