"The Canadian Government has consistently sought to bring about far-reaching measures of nuclear disarmament, and to have all aspects of this important problem carefully studied in international disarmament negotiations. Canada considers, however, that the convening of a special conference on the question of the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons could have an adverse effect on international disarmament negotiations already in progress. In the opinion of the Canadian Government, the only effective way to ensure that nuclear weapons will never be used is through agreement on a comprehensive and carefully verified system of disarmament which would deal with all aspects of the problem of nuclear weapons. The Eighteen-Nation Committee is continuing to give full consideration to the question of nuclear disarmament, as well as related measures dealing with armed forces and conventional armaments, and it is to be hoped that agreement will be reached on a comprehensive programme.

On the basis of the above considerations, the Canadian Government has concluded that it would not be desirable to convene a special conference to consider the signing of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons".

This continues to be the Canadian position, since, in our view, the basic considerations have not changed since we replied to the Secretary-General's enquiry. Indeed it seems to us that the 17-power resolution could create a more difficult situation in resumed disarmament negotiations than we believed would be the case when Resolution 1653 was adopted in 1961. The present resolution not only asks the ENDC to study the question of convening a conference on prohibition of nuclear weapons, but it requests the Committee to do so urgently. This runs counter to the agreement reached in this Committee a few days ago on the general disarmament resolution, from which all mention of specific collateral measures was omitted (at the request of the Soviet Delegation). If the 17-power resolution is adopted, it could delay further discussion in the ENDC of collateral measures which - in the view of a majority of its members - offer the best prospects for early agreements. It could also delay continued study of the important question of a comprehensive ban on nuclear-weapons tests, and the measures contained in the plans for general and complete disarmament.

For all these reasons, the Canadian Delegation has serious misgivings about the resolution now before us and must therefore oppose it, even though we appreciate and sympathize with the desire to put an end to the possibility of nuclear weapons being used in war, which has motivated the co-sponsors in putting it forward.