



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 48/57

## STATEMENT ON ATOMIC ENERGY (II)

A statement by Gen. A.G.L. McNaughton, Canadian representative on the Atomic Energy Commission, at the Plenary meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations at Paris, on November 4, 1948.

In the course of the long debate on atomic energy which has taken place in this Assembly, the issues have been made quite clear. I wish now to re-state in the form of a series of brief propositions the position which the Canadian Government holds in regard to atomic energy, and because of which the Canadian delegation will give its full support to this resolution.

In the first place, the Canadian Government believes that it is possible to establish a practicable system for the control of atomic energy which will protect the nations of the world from the dangers of atomic war and which will give freedom to use atomic energy for peaceful purposes. This belief is demonstrated by the time and attention which the Canadian delegation has devoted to the work of the Atomic Energy Commission and it is demonstrated also by the anxiety of the Canadian Government that the work of the Commission should continue and that the difficulties standing in the way of agreement between nations should be removed. Canada possesses, as is well known, extensive resources of the raw materials from which atomic energy may be derived, and Canadian scientists and engineers have acquired special skills and knowledge in the field. These conditions made possible for Canada a considerable national development of atomic energy. We believe nevertheless that full benefits can come only through the organization of this development on an international rather than on a national basis.

My second proposition is the following: atomic warfare cannot be prohibited nor the international development of atomic energy ensured except on a basis which provides proper security for all nations. The principles through which these two objectives may be realized have been set forth in the majority reports of the Atomic Energy Commission. These principles have been arrived at by a long and arduous process of study and discussion in which representatives of seventeen nations have been engaged. Fourteen nations have agreed in the majority reports and only three have dissented. The Canadian Government, which was represented in the discussions in which these principles were evolved, adheres to them firmly, and confidently recommends their acceptance to other members of the United Nations as the "necessary basis" from which progress can be made towards the solution of the complicated problems of the prevention of atomic warfare and the freeing of the world's resources of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

In the third place, the Canadian Government believes that the stage has been reached in the work of the Atomic Energy Commission where, before further significant progress can be made, clear direction must be given to the Commission by the Assembly. It was from this General Assembly in its first session that it derived its original mandate. The resolution which is now before the General Assembly gives confirmation to the con-