

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



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ATOMIC ENERGY

Text of statement to be made in the General Assembly by the Canadian Representative, Mr. Hugh Faulkner, M.P., on the Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (Item 14) on Tuesday, December 5, 1967.

As one of the countries most advanced in the development of nuclear energy, including the production of source materials, Canada has maintained a keen interest in international co-operation in this field, and has endeavoured to play a constructive part in the operations of the International Atomic Energy Agency. It is in this light that the Canadian delegation has considered the IAEA's latest report, for the period 1 July, 1966 to 30 June, 1967.

During its brief history the International Atomic Energy Agency has demonstrated its ability to serve the international community by promoting the application of atomic energy to an ever-widening range of peaceful purposes. The Annual Report of the Board of Governors to the General Conference indicates the range of these activities. In the field of technical assistance, the Agency has provided the services of experts to member countries, has established fellowships and has organized international and regional training courses. The Agency's technical assistance programme is financed by a voluntary operational budget for which the target of two million dollars has not been met in recent years. This is unfortunate, particularly when it is considered that even if the target were met, the Agency would not be able to undertake all the programmes requested of it. It will therefore continue to be necessary to establish priorities among requests to ensure that the Agency's limited resources for the technical assistance programme are used to the best advantage.

The number and the capacity of nuclear power plants, either in the planning stage or under construction throughout the world, are growing rapidly. The Agency has responded to this development by promoting international co-operation in reactor research and the exchange of information, and by considering the practical aspects of the problems encountered in the early stages of nuclear power projects.