

energy in Geneva last August, the work had advanced to the point where the United States representative was able to announce to the eight nations (including Canada) which had been discussing the possible establishment of the agency had reached agreement on a draft statute and that this draft statute would be distributed to member countries of the United Nations.

It is our hope that the draft statute will find general favour and that it will be implemented at an early date, so that the Agency will be in a position as soon as possible to get on with its important work of aiding in the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy throughout the world, and in doing so will provide a base for peaceful co-operation in our time as perhaps nothing else can or will.

All states members of the United Nations or of the Specialized Agencies have received copies of the draft statute and, undoubtedly, will have constructive comments to offer. Last year, in this Committee, it was generally accepted in the debate -- and tacitly acknowledged in the resolution -- that the detailed negotiation on the Statute must be left to a small group of states. The resolution suggests that when the agency is established it shall negotiate an appropriate form of agreement with the United Nations. Mr. Pearson, in his statement to the last General Assembly, said that "this is one field in which the United Nations should not, and I am confident will not, be by-passed." My Government continues to be strongly of the view that the Agency, once established, should negotiate an appropriate form of agreement with the United Nations.

For the present it would seem to be most advantageous to follow the procedure envisaged in the resolution and the one which I am sure will lead most quickly to the establishment of an agency; the resolution provided in fact "that the views of members which have manifested their interest be fully considered." Each nation can therefore assist by submitting comments on the draft statute as soon as possible. The Canadian Government as one of the negotiating states, for its part, will welcome all these comments and consider them most earnestly in reviewing the Statute which will ultimately be submitted for individual approval.

It will have been noted that the draft statute as it now stands makes careful provision for the representation of the structure of the agency of the various interests involved and in particular of the major areas of the world. Special account has been taken of the under-developed countries of their requirements. We hope that countries from other areas -- those which are now or potentially the major contributors will examine the draft statute and offer suggestions to ensure that the agency is so devised that it can serve adequately their present and future needs. We for our part are anxious that the agency should be the instrument of the common goal and that like other United Nations Agencies it should play an important and ever increasing role in fostering the establishment of conditions of greater equality in opportunities between all countries. We note with approval the decision of the Soviet Government to support the proposals to set up the international agency. My Government may wish to comment on the various detailed suggestions put forward in this connection by the Soviet Government when there has been an opportunity to examine them.

I would now like to deal with the Canadian atomic energy programme: certain of its features are related to the very subjects I have been discussing and I am hopeful that what I am about to say will receive the particular attention of those nations which are just now launching national atomic