



Statement No. 97

December 4, 1967

Prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons

Statement in Explanation of Vote made on
Resolution A/C.1/L.409, by General E.L.M.
Burns, on Monday, December 4, 1967

The Canadian delegation joins you and other delegations in expressing condolences to the delegation of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, and through them to their Government and people, on the death of their distinguished leader, Mr. Koslov, President of the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian Republic.

In a statement made at our meeting of the 28th of November the Canadian delegation explained that we did not agree with the arguments as set out in the U.S.S.R. memorandum, document A/6834, and the draft Convention attached thereto. However, the resolution we have just voted upon only urges all States to examine the question of the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons and "such other proposals as may be made on this subject". Furthermore the resolution urges all States (in terms somewhat unclear in the English text) to undertake negotiations respecting the matter in one of several different ways.

We are not happy about the wording of two of the operative paragraphs. Operative paragraph 1, as worded, expresses convictions which we cannot fully share. We think that the word "conviction" is too strong. In the present circumstances we do not think that the Convention is either essential or urgent. And in the second operative paragraph there is a