

On November 30, the First (Political and Security) Committee adopted by 50 votes, with none against and 26 abstentions, a resolution on the question of convening a conference for the purpose of signing a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons. A report from the Secretary-General on this matter made pursuant to Resolution 1653 (XVI) of November 24, 1961, had already shown that, of all the member states consulted for their views, 60 favoured a conference, 26 either opposed the idea or had strong reservations about it, while three inclined toward awaiting the results of the meeting in Geneva and the 18-Nation Committee on Disarmament. The resolution adopted by the First Committee would accordingly have had the Assembly request the Secretary-General to consult further with member states on the question and to report to the next Assembly on the results of these consultations. The Assembly approved the resolution on December 14 by 33 votes in favour, with none against and 25 abstentions (including Canada).

Canada's abstention on the resolution was consistent with its view that binding and controlled agreements on nuclear disarmament remain to this day the most effective way of dealing with the nuclear threat.

The Assembly also accepted without objection on December 19 the First Committee's recommendation that consideration of a draft resolution tabled in committee by Bolivia, Brazil, Chile and Ecuador and subsequently revised, which in part called on all states to consider and respect the territory of Latin America as a de-nuclearized zone, be postponed to the Assembly's next session.

Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy

The Assembly was also to give unanimous approval to a resolution calling for a third International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. The conference, to be held in Geneva for ten calendar days in the autumn of 1964, will be considerably more limited in size and in costs than those of 1955 and 1958, which made such a significant contribution to the development of knowledge on the application of atomic energy to peaceful purposes.

Radiation

At the seventeenth session, the Assembly considered the second comprehensive report by the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation and a progress report prepared by the World Meteorological Organization on the action taken to implement the Assembly's request for a report on the feasibility of establishing a world-wide scheme of monitoring and reporting on levels of radioactivity in the atmosphere. Canada has been a member of UNSCEAR since 1955 and, at the seventeenth session, took the lead in promoting the resolution calling for the WMO study. Accordingly, the Canadian Delegation, at the seventeenth session, continued its efforts to focus international attention on the hazards to health resulting from increased radioactivity. A Canadian resolution, co-sponsored by 42 other members, was submitted to the