

International Atomic Energy Agency: First General Conference

THE first session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency was held in Vienna October 1-23, 1957. The Statute of the Agency was opened for signature on October 26, 1956, and was signed by representatives of seventy countries. The Statute came into force on July 29, 1957, and by October 24, 1957, it had been ratified by fifty-nine States.* Of this number 55 countries were represented at the Conference by voting delegations. In addition, 11 states which had signed the Statute but had not yet ratified it were represented by observers. On October 8, the General Conference approved Finland's application for membership. Finland is not an original signatory but will become a member of the Agency when its instrument of acceptance of the Statute has been deposited. The United Nations, the Specialized Agencies and a number of other inter-governmental and non-governmental agencies were also represented by observers. The plenary sessions and the meetings of the main committees were open to the public.

Canada was represented by Mr. M. H. Wershof, Q.C., Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations in Geneva, with Mr. W. H. Barton, Department of External Affairs, and Mr. S. Pollock, Department of Finance, as alternates.



CANADA'S DELEGATION

Members of the Canadian Delegation to the first session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, held October 1-23 in Vienna, were, seated, left to right: Mr. M. H. Wershof, Chairman; Mr. W. H. Barton; Mr. S. Pollock; standing, Mr. Murray Cook and Mr. D. Watson.

*For background information see Volume 8, Numbers 7 and 11 of "External Affairs" (July and November 1956)