

do with the general conduct of a war. Therefore, the Canadian Delegation along with a number of others would argue that this Conference is not the place for such a discussion and move that the Soviet resolution be ruled out of order. In the event that the Conference decided the Soviet resolution should be discussed on its merits, the Canadian and other delegations would then seek time for a study of its proposals.

4. In the event that a discussion of the resolution was to take place, the Canadian Delegation, as at present constituted, was not competent, according to Wershof, to debate questions of atomic bombing and would require to have some officer familiar with this subject proceed to Geneva at once to assist the delegation.

5. I stated that there was no officer at any European mission who could be considered an expert in this field and that if we were to send someone to Geneva it would have to be either George Ignatieff or John Starnes from New York.

6. I later discussed Wershof's proposal with the Under-Secretary who expressed the view that in order to debate the Soviet resolution intelligently and effectively it was not necessary to have a detailed and expert knowledge of atomic warfare. He was not of the opinion that it was essential to send such an expert to Geneva but suggested that Mr. George of the Defence Liaison Division in consultation with the United Nations Division should prepare a brief for the guidance of the Canadian Delegation and that Wershof, particularly with his training as a lawyer, should be able to present the Canadian arguments based on that brief.

H.O. M[ORAN]

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*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
pour le représentant permanent des Nations Unies, Genève*

*Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Permanent Representative to United Nations, Geneva*

TELEGRAM 173

Ottawa, July 8, 1949

CONFIDENTIAL

For Canadian delegation to Diplomatic Conference. Begins. Your telegrams Nos. 145† and 146† and Moran's telegram No. 171 of July 7.†

Your attitude to the Soviet resolution calling on governments to outlaw weapons of mass destruction, whether bacteriological, chemical or atomic, may be governed by the following considerations:

(a) As you point out, the Conference has been called to prepare final texts of Conventions for the protection of victims of war and not, repeat not, for the purpose of considering how wars should be conducted.

(b) For the past three years, the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission has been trying to reach agreement on the international control of atomic energy. If agreement in this field is reached, an attempt might be made to control other means of mass destruction, but there are much greater technical difficulties in the way of