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International Atomic Energy Agency

Text of statement to be made by the
Canadian Representative, Miss Margaret
Meagher, on the Report of the IAEA
(Item 14) in Plenary Session on Tuesday
November 22, 1966.

The occasion of the presentation to the General Assembly of the annual report of the IAEA, by its Director General, provides a regular opportunity for all member States of the United Nations to focus their attention on the achievements of this important organization in the specialized field of atomic energy. This year the occasion takes on particular significance in that the IAEA is celebrating its 10th anniversary and it is natural, therefore, that we should assess its accomplishments, not only in terms of the past year, but over the first decade of its life.

Mr. President, Canada was among the pioneers in the development of nuclear energy and we have concentrated a considerable part of our scientific effort on nuclear research and development. Moreover, the Canadian Government has taken a deliberate and conscious policy decision to restrict our nuclear energy programme exclusively to peaceful purposes. It is not surprising, therefore, that the aims and objectives of the IAEA, directed as they are to the peaceful uses of atomic energy, should have engaged our sympathetic interest. Canada has been a member of the Agency from its inception and we have tried to play a responsible and constructive role in its deliberations and in its operations. In common with all its members we have a stake in the success of the Agency and we feel that at the 10-year mark in its history it is right to pause and take stock.

It is the Canadian view that the record of the IAEA is one which should give sober satisfaction to all its member States. The Agency is still relatively young but it is already well established among the organizations of the United Nations family, it is developing along sound and fruitful lines and it has many solid achievements to its credit. The

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Dear Mr. [Name],
I have received your letter of the 15th and am glad to hear from you.
I am sorry that I cannot give you a more definite answer at this time.
I will be in touch with you again as soon as I can.

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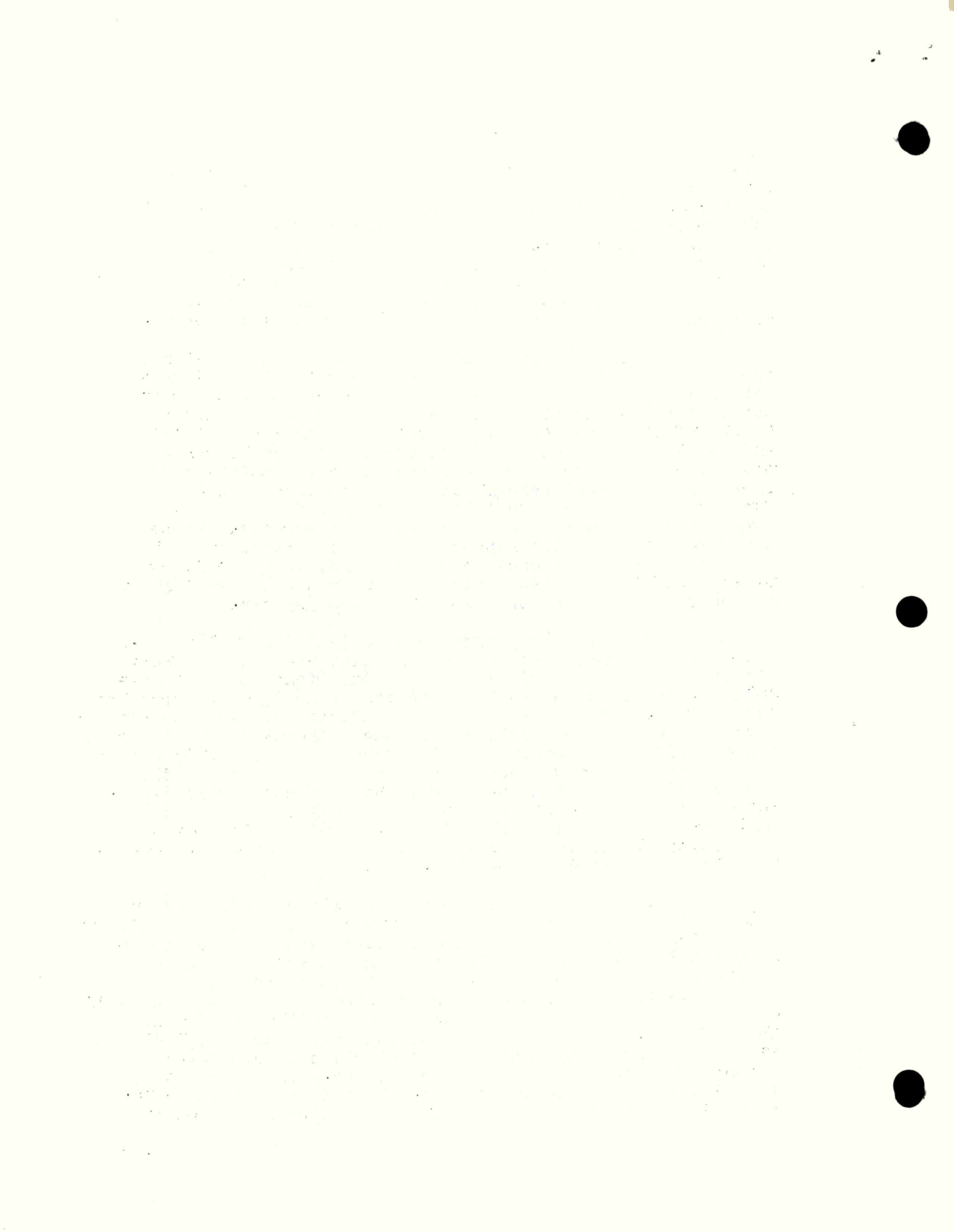
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application of atomic energy to peaceful purposes is of enormous and ever-growing importance to the peoples of the world, its potential is incalculable and all countries have an interest in sharing the benefits of scientific progress in this area. The Agency has a vital role to play in this development, in a variety of ways, and we believe that its usefulness and authority are growing steadily as it demonstrates with each passing year its increasing capacity to serve the international community.

A notable contribution of the IAEA to nuclear cooperation, and one which can only be made at the international level, has been to draw up and promulgate international codes and standards which protect the health and safety of those who come in contact with nuclear materials and facilities. Another of its regulatory functions, and one which is of paramount importance, is the establishment of an international safeguards system to ensure that nuclear materials and facilities intended for peaceful purposes should not be diverted to military ends. Canada has given wholehearted support to all efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and, as a corollary of this policy, we have actively supported and participated in the development of the IAEA safeguards system.

The Agency's programme of scientific conferences, symposia and panels provides opportunity and encouragement for the exchange of information and experience on an international level in the various aspects of nuclear research and development. These meetings of scientists from many countries, including Canada, not only add to the storehouse of knowledge, but contribute to international understanding and cooperation in the nuclear field. Moreover, the dissemination of the results of such exchanges, as well as of other publications, increases the information on nuclear research and development available to all member States. Canada will continue to participate in this programme which provides a very useful service to the whole membership.

The IAEA, like other organizations of the United Nations system, has an active programme of technical assistance to developing countries. A significant part of this programme is related to the use of atomic energy in agriculture and health and it is a matter of satisfaction to the Canadian Government that considerable progress has been made in working out sensible measures of coordination with FAO and WHO in these fields. The Agency's technical assistance programme is financed by an operational budget which is dependent on voluntary contributions by member States. Unfortunately the target for this voluntary budget, which is modest in comparison to the needs of the developing countries, has never



been met and it is the hope of the Canadian Government that as many member States as can possibly do so will contribute to the voluntary fund. It is of course true that, even if the \$2 million target figure were reached, the resources would still be inadequate to meet the legitimate requirements of the developing countries and it will continue to be necessary to establish the highest priorities among them. The Director General has submitted thoughtful suggestions for working out a programme to meet the high priority needs of developing countries in the years ahead and Canada will join with other members of the Agency and with the Secretariat in the formulation of a constructive programme of nuclear technical assistance.

Mr. President, when one speaks of the peaceful uses of atomic energy these days, one's thoughts immediately and naturally turn to the harnessing of nuclear energy for the production of electrical power. Whatever the fuel used, the development of electrical power is essential to the national economy and the potential of nuclear power has caught the world's imagination. In some countries nuclear power plants are already in commercial operation; in others plans are going ahead for a nuclear power programme. We recognize that the IAEA has a special role to perform in this major industrial field of fundamental interest to all members and that it will have an increasingly worthwhile part to play, particularly in helping member states to determine when and how they should embark on a nuclear power programme. A related area of particular importance to developing countries and one in which the Agency's increasing interest can be of service is the use of nuclear power for de-salting water.

Mr. President, as I said earlier on, we in Canada are satisfied that the IAEA in its first 10 years has established a sound foundation on which to build in the future. It has made good progress and we expect that in the years ahead, as atomic energy takes on greater and greater importance throughout the world, the Agency's responsibilities and authority will grow correspondingly. We think that the Director General and his staff are to be congratulated on the solid achievements already won. I should like to assure the General Assembly that Canada can be counted upon to continue to lend its cooperation to the IAEA in its efforts to develop the peaceful uses of atomic energy for the welfare of mankind.

