

Addendum for  
External Affairs  
Supplementary Paper No. 54/33/UN9/10

(Please attach to original)

PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY

The General Assembly in plenary session on December 4 adopted unanimously the resolution as a whole which had been approved in the First Committee on November 23.



No. 54/33/UN 9/10 PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY

Text of a statement on November 9, 1954, by the Minister of National Health and Welfare and Acting Chairman of the Canadian Delegation, Mr. Paul Martin in the First Committee at the ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, on agenda item 67 - International co-operation in developing the peaceful uses of atomic energy: Report of the United States of America.

Note: The text of a resolution adopted by the Committee and the results of the voting are included at the end of the statement.

I am grateful to you and to the Committee for this opportunity to intervene briefly, although I have already spoken in the general debate. I feel it desirable to make a suggestion that may clarify one point in the resolution which stands in the name of seven countries. Of course, I refer to Resolution A/C.1/L.105 of November 6.

As members of the Committee will have noticed, this Resolution proposes that an International Scientific Conference should be held next summer to explore means of developing the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The Secretary-General is requested in the resolution to issue invitations to this Conference, to prepare and circulate a detailed agenda and to provide for the necessary staff and services. In carrying out this request of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General would be acting upon the advice of a small committee composed of the representatives of certain countries. In the resolution which is before us, members of the Committee will note there is a blank where the names of these countries to be represented on the Advisory Committee will appear.

The sponsors of the resolution have recently been considering which countries should, in their judgment, be represented on this Advisory Committee. We believe - and I am sure that the Committee as a whole will not disagree - that it is desirable that the Committee should be both compact and small in the interests of efficiency and operation. It is intended to advise the Secretary-General on rather technical questions concerning the preparations for a Scientific Conference in a highly specialized field. To take for example, the question of the agenda, it will be appreciated that the Secretary-General should be advised by those most competent to judge which subjects, from among the whole range of possible peaceful uses of atomic energy, should be given priority at the Scientific Conference. In other words, the members of the Advisory Committee should either be technically competent people themselves or should be able to draw on the technical experience of their governments.

At the same time - I am now speaking for the sponsors - I can say that we all believe that the selection of the members of the Advisory Committee should also take into account the need for maintaining proper geographic representation of the main regions and groupings among the members of the United Nations.

For these reasons, I am authorized by my colleagues representing those countries who are co-sponsoring this resolution to propose that the Advisory Committee provided for in paragraph 5 of our resolution should be composed of France, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada; and, in addition, Brazil, India and the U.S.S.R. We are not making this, at this moment, as a formal proposal nor are we at this time issuing a revision of our resolution incorporating the names of these five countries in the place of the present blank in paragraph 5. The reason why we are resorting to this informal procedure at this moment is that there has not been adequate time for consultations, particularly with the Delegations of Brazil, India and the U.S.S.R.

The fact is that the sponsoring group decided last night to take a position in this matter and to seek the participation of the representatives of these three additional governments in the work of the Advisory Committee. I have been able to inform Professor Leme (Brazil), Mr. Sobolev (Russia) and Mr. Menon (India) only this morning and naturally, we cannot expect an immediate reply from them in a matter of this kind. We did feel, however, that we should inform all members of the Committee of our precise proposals as soon as possible. If the Governments of Brazil, India and the U.S.S.R. find they are able to agree to participate in the Advisory Committee, this would, we hope, complete the seven power resolution.

I should also make it clear, and I am again speaking for the sponsoring countries, that in making this proposal, we do not in any way wish to impose a certain slate upon the Committee. We are in this, as in all other respects, in the hands of the Committee and it is for the Committee to judge which countries should serve. However, for the sake of clarity, we have thought it was desirable to make a specific proposal as early in the debate as possible; and this we have now done.

Finally, I should like to express my hope that the moderate and, I thought, well disposed intervention of the distinguished representative of the Soviet Union yesterday morning may foreshadow the willingness of his Government to follow the path of international co-operation in this very important field, and I hope that he will find himself able, along with the distinguished representatives of India and Brazil, to agree to participate in the important work of this Advisory Committee. In the course of the disarmament debate, I need hardly recall that my appeal did not fall on deaf ears - and I acknowledge again the helpful contribution that we received from Mr. Vyshinsky and Mr. Menon and others on that occasion. And I am anticipating that, in a matter of such great importance as the resolution before us now, one may legitimately make the same appeal. From the speech of Professor Leme we may count on his co-operation and we hope also from the others.

Without urging an immediate reply from any of the Delegations of the three additional countries proposed, I may say it is the sincere wish of the sponsors that they will be able to accept this invitation.

Voting Results

Following is the text of a resolution (U.N. Doc. No. A/C.1/759) adopted unanimously by the First Committee on November 23, 1954:

Text of Resolution:

The General Assembly,

Believing that the benefits arising from the momentous discovery of atomic energy should be placed at the service of mankind,

Desiring to promote energetically the use of atomic energy to the end that it will serve only the peaceful pursuits of mankind and ameliorate their living conditions,

Recognizing the importance and the urgency of international co-operation in developing and expanding the peaceful uses of atomic energy to assist in lifting the burdens of hunger, poverty and disease,

Believing also that all nations should cooperate in promoting the dissemination of knowledge in the realm of nuclear technology for peaceful ends,

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CONCERNING AN INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Recalling the initiative of the President of the United States embodied in his address of 8 December 1953,

Noting that negotiations are in progress, and the intention that they should continue, for the establishment as quickly as possible of an International Atomic Energy Agency to facilitate the use by the entire world of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, and to encourage international co-operation in the further development and practical application of atomic energy for the benefit of mankind,

1. Expresses the hope that the International Atomic Energy Agency will be established without delay,

2. Suggests that, once the Agency is established, it negotiate an appropriate form of agreement with the United Nations;

3. Transmits to the States participating in the creation of the Agency, for their careful consideration, to the record of the discussion of this item at the present session of the General Assembly;

4. Suggests that Members of the United Nations be informed as progress is achieved in the establishment of the Agency and that the views of Members who have manifested their interest be fully considered;

Following is the text of a resolution  
(U.N. Doc. No. A/C.1.59) adopted unanimously  
by the First Committee on November 23, 1954:

CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE PEACEFUL  
USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY

1. Declares the interest and concern of the General Assembly in helping in every feasible way to promote the peaceful application of atomic energy;

2. Decides that an international technical conference of Governments should be held under the auspices of the United Nations, to explore means of developing the peaceful uses of atomic energy through international co-operation and, in particular, to study the development of atomic power and to consider other technical areas - such as biology, medicine, radiation protection; and fundamental science in which international co-operation might most effectively be accomplished;

3. Invites all States Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies to participate in the conference and to include among their representatives individual experts competent in the atomic energy field;

4. Suggests that the international conference should be held no later than August 1955 at a place to be determined by the Secretary-General and by the Advisory Committee provided for in paragraph 5;

5. Requests the Secretary-General acting upon the advice of a small committee composed of representatives of Brazil, Canada, France, India, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of America to issue invitations to this conference, to prepare and circulate to all invitees a detailed agenda, and to provide the necessary staff and services;

6. Suggests to the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee that, in making plans for the international conference, they consult with competent specialized agencies, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

7. Invites the interested specialized agencies to designate persons to represent them at the conference;

8. Requests that the Secretary-General circulate for information a report on this conference to all Members of the United Nations, and to other Governments and specialized agencies participating in the conference.