United Nations
General Assembly

Twenty-second session
Agenda item 27

QUESTION OF HOLDING FURTHER CONFERENCES ON
THE PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In resolution 2056 (XX), arising from its consideration of the report of the
Secretary-General on the Third International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of
Atomic Energy,1/ the General Assembly decided to consider at its twenty-second
session the question of holding further conferences on the peaceful uses of
atomic energy.

2. The matter has been discussed at the 65th and 66th meetings of the United
Nations Scientific Advisory Committee and at the latter meeting held in New York on
13 October 1967 the Scientific Advisory Committee recommended that a fourth
international conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy should be held under
the auspices of the United Nations, with the fullest participation of the
International Atomic Energy Agency. The Committee's summary of recommendations, in
which the Secretary-General concurs, is annexed to the present report.

3. The Scientific Advisory Committee is to meet in April 1968, when it will
consider further an agenda for a fourth conference and make recommendations about
arrangements for it. These will be placed before the General Assembly at its
twenty-third session, together with an appreciation of the budgetary provisions
necessary.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Annexes,
agenda item 27, document A/5913.
ANNEX

Summary of recommendations adopted by the United Nations Advisory Committee at its 66th meeting, on 13 October 1967

The major advances in atomic energy and its applications since 1964 promise to affect most of the population of the world. The impact will concern politicians, economists and planners as much as the technologists. Bearing in mind these points that are developed further below, the United Nations Scientific Advisory Committee unanimously recommends that there should be a fourth international conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy under the auspices of the United Nations, with the fullest participation of the IAEA. The specialized agencies should be invited to participate as appropriate.

Moreover, there are other technical fields of recognized international significance for which further United Nations sponsored conferences appropriately spaced in time were proposed in the Committee meeting. A conference on the resources of the biosphere is planned for 1968 by UNESCO with support from the United Nations and the specialized agencies. This field forms part of man's concern with the environment that seems appropriate as a topic for further United Nations sponsored conferences.

Conferences on other topics have been proposed and the Committee is willing to serve in their consideration.

The advances in atomic energy have increased in scale both in the power capacity of nuclear plants and in the time taken to build them. It is recommended that the fourth international conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy, of somewhat shortened duration, should be held in 1970 or 1971. Preparations should be made soon to define the agenda to ensure full participation by all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies.

At this stage the Committee is not in a position to make a firm recommendation about the content of an agenda for the conference. However, without intending to be exhaustive the following topics are listed as illustrations of the subjects which have been suggested for discussion and should be further studied by the Committee in later sessions:

...
1. The application of low-cost, large-scale nuclear energy to:
   (a) The generation of electric power as a major component of integrated electric power systems;
   (b) Water desalination;
   (c) Chemical, electrochemical and thermal industrial processes and agro-industrial installations for the production of fertilizer, and other aids to agriculture and industry.

2. Breeders and advanced converter reactors.


4. The prospects of smaller nuclear power installations, including mobile units.

5. The application of isotopes both on a large scale and in a multitude of ways on a small scale.


7. Indirect effects through genetic changes in plants for food.

8. Establishing materials for advances reactors.

9. The techniques of safeguards.