

A number of delegations reminded the General Assembly that the Atomic Energy Commission was not subject to the "veto" and suggested therefore that it should resume its work, ride over any Soviet objections and prepare a Treaty. On the other hand, most delegations supported us in the view that this would be unwise at this time as this procedure would result in accentuating and hardening the divisions of opinion between the Soviet and the rest of the world, and because in fact no agreement which was not universal would be of any value.

However, as the debate developed it became evident that a considerable number of delegations, while not subscribing to the view that the Commission should ride over the Soviet nations on the clauses of the Treaty, nevertheless felt that it would be well for the world if the Atomic Energy Commission remained in session so as to keep the whole of this dangerous situation under constant review. It was thought that if this were done the Commission might even be able to make progress on some aspects of its technical work.

The Canadian Delegation and those who had joined in the sponsorship of our resolution, particularly the U.S.A. and France, were happy to accede to this somewhat more hopeful view of the possibilities of progress and we therefore modified our proposal so as to provide that the Commission would resume its meetings and "proceed to the further study of such of the subjects remaining in its programme of work as it considers to be practicable and useful."

In this form the resolution went to a plenary session of the General Assembly where it received 40 votes in favour to 6 against. Those against included the Soviet and Soviet satellites only. The 12 nations unaccounted for or abstaining include a number who had not yet made up their minds on this complex and difficult subject. A few made reservations because of special interest in uranium and thorium ores and unfortunately a number were absent because the vote came earlier than had been expected. Altogether it is thought that in one form or another some 46 nations expressed in Paris their acceptance, at least in principle, of the majority proposals.

Thus I can say that the novel and far reaching project for the international control of atomic energy which has been evolved by the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission has met with acceptance by the great majority of the nations and we can feel therefore that this project commends itself to the conscience of the world. No nation outside the Soviet bloc has rejected it. This is most important for the future because it is the assurance which we sought when we took this great question to the General Assembly in Paris. We have been given it in generous measure and even the Soviet must now realize that they stand in isolation in their failure to accept the new conceptions of international organization which seem to us to be an inescapable condition for the survival of civilization in this atomic age. Following the conclusion of the 3rd Session of the General Assembly in Paris, the Atomic Energy Commission resumed its meetings in New York and proceeded to a re-examination of its programme of work in the greatest detail in order to determine if there was any further work which it was practicable and useful to undertake and to make doubly certain that no possible misunderstanding of the Soviet position might have stood in the way of agreement.