

I mentioned earlier the task of the Agency of ensuring that the assistance which it provides is not diverted to purposes other than the peaceful uses intended. The possibility of atomic weapons again being used, and the risk of destruction on an unprecedented scale which such use might involve, would be immeasurably increased if it were within the capability of every government to produce such weapons at will. So long as disagreements between nations remains common, there is always the prospect that men and governments may lose patience or consider that they are so pressed by circumstances as to have no recourse but to force. In view of that prospect the widespread availability of atomic weapons should be regarded by all men of conscience throughout the world as highly undesirable. It therefore appears to us that all governments, both in the general interest of world peace and as a contribution to their own security, should be prepared to make considerable sacrifices in order to avoid this risk.

The widespread manufacture of atomic weapons could of course be rendered more difficult by arrangements designed to restrict as closely as possible the access of most countries to the necessary materials. This method would be directly contradictory to a principal objective of the Agency, that of facilitating the access of all countries to the resources required for their peaceful atomic programmes. In this difficult field we believe the Agency can provide a system permitting all countries to obtain atomic resources for peaceful uses with assurance on the part of all that such materials shall not be diverted to military use, or permitted to create a hazard to health or safety. Such an arrangement, is obviously in the interest of all countries wishing to acquire the resources for the establishment and development of peaceful atomic programmes. Having these considerations in mind my Government very strongly supports the provisions in the draft statute for safeguards to be applied to assistance provided by the Agency.

My Delegation believes that the system of safeguards should be comprehensive and effective. Nevertheless our only concern in this matter is to provide assurance against diversion to military uses and against risk to health or safety. Certain Governments have expressed misgivings about the extent of the control powers assigned to the Agency, and have directed attention in particular to the powers assigned to the Agency in the draft statute with regard to fissionable materials which may be products of a project enjoying Agency assistance. It has been suggested that these particular powers would permit the Agency to act in ways contrary to the economic and political interests of the states involved. It is certainly not the intention of my Government that the Agency should act in this matter in any way other than is required to fulfill its responsibilities for ensuring that diversion to military uses shall not take place, and that there shall be proper protection of health and safety. Powers assigned to the Agency to apply safeguards must on the one hand be adequate to ensure that the safeguards are effective but on the other hand they must not be used for any other purpose. I am stating as explicitly as I can my Government's position on this point in order to assure any delegation which may have misgivings about these particular provisions, that as far as Canada is concerned the powers so assigned should not and will not be used for any improper purpose or for any purpose other than that of ensuring against diversion to military uses and against health and safety hazards.