

Close Relations Needed

Another main theme running through the debate was the need for close relations between other United Nations organizations and the Agency. Progress in this respect was made at the Conference when draft relationship agreements between the Agency and FAO, ILO, UNESCO, WHO, and WMO were unanimously approved and the proposal that the Agency seek to join the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance was adopted.

An interesting development during the general debate was the announcement by the Japanese Delegate that his country had requested the Agency to arrange for the purchase of three tons of reactor-grade uranium ingot. This is the first call on the Agency to provide one of the services for which the Agency was primarily set up. It was also encouraging to hear the Japanese and United States Delegations announce that they would request the Agency to administer the safeguards provisions of their bilateral agreement. Canada, as well as many Western countries, looks to the Agency to fulfil its statutory role in relation to safeguards in order to ensure that fissionable materials are not diverted to military purposes. On the other hand, the Soviet group of countries and some Asian ones continue to take the line either that it is premature to push the question of safeguards at this time, or that the idea of safeguards infringes on the sovereignty of states.

United States and Canadian Views

The most important and constructive speech of the debate was the one given by the United States Delegate (Mr. McCone, Chairman of the United States Atomic Energy Commission) in which he pledged anew strong support by his Government of the Agency "as an organization of primary importance in the field of international co-operation", and pledged that, consistent with his country's existing obligations, "the United States will look to the Agency as the major institutional channel through which the international peaceful uses programme of the United States will be implemented and carried forward." After giving assurances of strong support for the programme outlined in the budget, the United States Delegate outlined a series of proposals for future Agency activities. Some of these would involve generous unilateral financial support from the United States.

In his address, Mr. Wershof reaffirmed Canada's continued wholehearted support for the Agency based on the Government's wish to foster the rapid growth of the peaceful uses of atomic energy and the belief that an international agency such as IAEA would make a valuable contribution to this end. In reviewing the progress which the Agency had made in the past year, he admitted that, if all the expectations of last year had not been realized, it was because they had been too ambitious. Mr. Wershof cautioned against the dangers of the Secretariat being recruited strictly on a geographical basis, pointing out that technical qualifications are more important. He expressed disappointment that voluntary contributions from member governments to the 1958 fellowship programme had failed to meet the modest target of \$250,000, pointing out that without adequate financial backing this fundamental activity of the Agency would be crippled in its attempts to serve the needs of the less-developed countries. Canada thought that the stage had now been reached when the Agency could develop a useful role as an intermediary in the development of bilateral arrangements between member states, bringing less-developed