

world authority would be given information regarding the production of atomic energy. In addition, the United States proposal emphasized that the veto of the Great Powers in the Security Council should not apply in the event that any nation was charged with having violated the international agreement not to develop or use atomic energy for destructive purposes.

I may say that the proposals made by the United States accord very closely with the views of the Government of Canada, and of many other nations in the Western World, as to how this problem might be brought under control. On the other hand, the Soviet Government put forward a plan which differed fundamentally. It proposed the immediate outlawing of the atomic bombs and the destruction of all existing stocks of atomic weapons within a three month period. To this end the Soviet delegate tabled a draft convention which, he said, should be negotiated forthwith as the first step towards the establishment of a system of international control. The Soviet delegate was prepared to discuss methods of control and inspection, but he maintained that this should not hold up the immediate prohibition of atom bombs.

The idea that the menace to world peace presented by the atomic bomb could be solved merely by the signing of an international agreement to prohibit its use or manufacture seems very unreal. The experiences of the last twenty-five years have shown that international agreements alone are not enough to safeguard the peace. The prohibition of the use and manufacture of the atomic bomb at the present time would merely seriously reduce the military strength of the United States, the only nation now in possession of atomic bombs. It would be an act of unilateral disarmament which would give no assurance that any country engaged in atomic energy activities would not or could not make and use the bomb in the future. Fissionable material, the essential material for such peaceful applications of atomic energy as the development of industrial power, is also the explosive element of the bomb, and in the absence of effective inspection and control could readily be diverted from peaceful to military uses by a nation secretly preparing for atomic war.

For this reason, most members of the Commission were in general agreement with the principles of the American proposals. They considered that the prohibition of the use or manufacture of the atomic bomb should form part of an over-all control plan, so that when such prohibitions were put into effect they would be accompanied by the applications of safeguards such as international inspection of all countries to ensure that no secret activities in atomic energy were in progress.

After weeks of discussion along these lines, the Commission decided to seek a new approach to the problem by a study, in committee, of the available scientific information, to determine whether an effective control of atomic energy was feasible. This study resulted in a unanimous report by the scientists of all nations represented on the Commission that "they did not find any basis in the available scientific facts for supposing that effective control is not technologically feasible". With this conclusion before it, the Commission then proceeded to discuss the safeguards that would be required at each stage in the production and application of atomic energy to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes.

The Commission's findings were set out in detail in its First Report which was approved on December 31, 1946, by a vote of 10 to 0, with the Soviet and Polish Delegations abstaining. In this report the Commission pointed out that as all applications of