

in discussion of Indo-China, we shall of course follow these talks with close interest and take advantage of any opportunity that may be afforded to us to help in bringing some satisfactory conclusion out of this particular matter.

There is another matter about which I think I should say a word or two. I meant to discuss this, as a matter of fact when I was speaking in the house in January, but considerations of time did not then make it possible. I refer to President Eisenhower's proposals, last autumn on atomic energy. During recent months, and indeed during recent days, a considerable amount of significant information has been made public regarding the terrible power of atomic weapons, particularly the new type of hydrogen atomic weapons which, and it is a horrible admission to have to make, have made the bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima and killed 60,000 people obsolescent. There is no need for me to try to impress on the House the fearful power of these weapons and the awesome responsibility toward all future generations, which their recent development imposes on humanity.

In the face of the dangers which these developments involve, it is vitally important that no genuine opportunity for international co-operation in this field should be missed. In this respect the Berlin conference was disappointing and the Korean conference at Geneva may prove to be so, too. But surely we must never abandon the effort and the hope that sooner or later sanity and moderation will somehow prevail, and that man will exercise control over weapons, the use of which may destroy his little world.

While there are, as we know from long experience, many and bitter difficulties in the way of solution of this problem of international control of atomic energy, President Eisenhower's proposal does give us some hope that progress can be made. That proposal is in many respects a modest one. For that purpose, it may be easier to implement it. You will recall that when this proposal was first mentioned in this House--the proposal refers of course to the collection of atomic stockpiles of uranium and fissionable materials under an international atomic energy agency--the Canadian Government announced its unreserved support for it. The Prime Minister referred to it in the House at that time as an imaginative and constructive approach to what is perhaps the greatest problem of the day, namely, the effective control of atomic energy and its development for welfare rather than for warfare. But I think it is important that our strong support for this approach should be accompanied by a clear understanding, not only of what the proposal is but what it is not. For example, it does not of itself offer a solution for the terrible problem of the use of atomic energy for destructive purposes.

But while it is a relatively modest one, therein may, as I said, lie its virtue, or at any rate lie the possibility of its early and general acceptance. Furthermore, it could, if it were adopted, be the starting point for further progress and for reaching more important forward results. At this point it might be useful if I just said a word on the procedure being followed by the United States' Government in making arrangements for discussion of this proposal by the nations principally concerned. Obviously--at least it seems obvious to me--it is of great importance that the