

"The General Assembly and the members of the United Nations should also be informed of the deliberations which have taken place in the Security Council with regard to atomic energy. They should have an opportunity of studying for themselves the proposals which have been put forward for the international control of atomic energy so that they may review, and so that the General Assembly may judge, the attitudes taken in regard to these proposals by each member of the Atomic Energy Commission.

"Those of us who have worked out in good faith the proposals which are contained in the majority report will thus be enabled to test our conclusions in the wider forum of the General Assembly and, despite a natural disappointment with the remarks which have just been made by the representatives of the USSR and the Ukrainian SSR, I still hope that, given time between now and the meeting of the General Assembly for further reflection on the essentials of the problem, they will come to appreciate the sincerity and the convictions of those who framed the majority proposals, and that they will come also to recognise that their conclusions are inescapable. Thus, in the General Assembly we shall endeavour to find a basis on which the work of the Atomic Energy Commission may be resumed and which will ultimately lead to agreement on this matter which, I think, everyone is convinced is essential for the continued peace and well-being of the world".

The three reports of the Atomic Energy Commission are before the General Assembly and have been referred to this Committee.

I should like first to say a word about the significance of atomic energy as a weapon for war. It will be recalled that three years ago two atomic bombs fell upon Japan. More than 115,000 people were killed and another 110,000 injured. These two bombs were delivered by two aircraft with small crews, packed an explosive concentration equal to over 40,000 tons of TNT, which is a concentration of energy which a short time before would have required for delivery at the target at least 10,000 aircraft and perhaps a crew of 100,000. Thus, by the introduction of the atomic bomb, even in its elementary model, the power of the greatest individual weapon previously available was multiplied by a factor of several thousands; and tremendous as was this achievement, and terrifying as was the result, it is well to remember that under the conditions then existing only a relatively small part of the nuclear energy present in the active material of the bomb was released in the explosion.

In the intervening years these atomic weapons in a number of new forms have been the subject of intensive research made possible by large resources and carried forward by persons who had previously become skilled in the art. It is known that as a consequence the efficiency of the explosion can be very substantially improved, and it may well be that the possibilities in this connection may be represented by a shift of the decimal point.

Also, as regards materials it is well known that new sources have become available. It is not too much to say, therefore, that the United Nations in seeking methods and means of controlling atomic energy is dealing with something which, if it is not controlled and if it should be used, may well bring an end to civilization as we know it. And for the first time in the history of the world the means for the utter destruction of a current civilization are present.

It was with a deep realization of the application of atomic energy to war as well as of the peaceful economic possibilities, that scientists and military men and statesmen, even before Hiroshima, started thinking of this problem which had been created and which can only be solved in terms of international agreement.

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