

Excerpt from report on the first part of the first session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Department of External Affairs, pp. 49-50.

1. On November 15, 1945, the President of the United States, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and the Prime Minister of Canada issued in Washington a joint declaration proposing the establishment of a commission of the United Nations to study the problems raised by the discovery of atomic energy. In December, 1945, at the Moscow Conference of the Foreign Ministers of the United Kingdom, the United States and the Soviet Union, and in subsequent diplomatic negotiations with China and France, agreement was reached on the terms of a joint resolution dealing with this subject, to be presented to the General Assembly.

This resolution was presented by the delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of the five permanent members of the Security Council and Canada. It was referred to the Political and Security Committee where it was adopted without change by 46 votes to none, with one abstention. On January 24, 1946, the resolution was adopted unanimously by the General Assembly.

In his address to the General Assembly on January 18, Mr. St. Laurent, the Canadian delegate said:

"The possibility of harnessing atomic energy to the purposes of mankind has been demonstrated, and it is now proposed, and proposed by the very nations who appear to have made the greatest advances in that field -- and my country is one of them -- that the vast problems and possibilities which this discovery has opened before us shall be dealt with within the framework of the United Nations.

"This appears to be a most striking instance of a world problem which is of direct concern to every human being and also of the manner in which it should be handled."

The resolution provides that with the exception of Canada, which will have the same permanency of membership in the commission as the permanent members of the Security Council, the composition of the commission will be identical with that of the Security Council.

The resolution directs the commission to make specific proposals for extending between all nations the exchange of scientific information for peaceful ends; for the control of atomic energy to the extent necessary to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes; for the elimination from national armaments not only of atomic weapons, but of all other weapons adaptable to mass destruction; and for effective safeguards by way of inspection and other means to protect complying states against the hazards of violations and evasions.

The commission will submit its reports and recommendations to the Security Council.

CANADA AND THE UNITED NATIONS 1948, pp. 37-40:

In December, 1946, the General Assembly recognized that the prohibition of atomic weapons, and the control of atomic energy to ensure its use for peaceful purposes only, was an essential part of any plan to regulate and reduce armaments, and urged the "expeditious fulfilment" by the Atomic Energy Commission of its tasks. The Security Council was also to