

This declaration was followed by a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the United States, the United Kingdom, and the U.S.S.R. in Moscow in December, 1945, at which the Washington proposals were endorsed. These three Governments then invited France, China, and Canada to join with them in sponsoring the proposal at the General Assembly. At the first meeting of the General Assembly on January 24, 1946 in London, the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission was established by unanimous resolution.

The membership of this Commission comprises the eleven countries members for the time being of the Security Council, that is the five permanent members and the six non-permanent members each elected for two-year terms; Canada, as one of the original sponsors continues to be included even when she is not a member of the Security Council. The Commission is charged with making specific proposals, among other matters "for the control of atomic energy to the extent necessary to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes," and "for effective safeguards by way of inspection and other means to protect complying States against the hazards of violations and evasions."

The Atomic Energy Commission first met in New York in June of the same year and during the following two years -- up to June 1948 -- in the course of some 240 meetings, it produced three reports.

In all, seventeen nations have served on the Commission for various periods and of these, fourteen, including Canada, are in agreement as to the general nature of the system of control required. The other three, which are the U.S.S.R. and the Soviet-dominated states of Poland and the Ukraine, hold different views. The plan of the majority provides for the creation of an international atomic authority which would own in trust for the nations of the world all uranium and thorium after they are taken from the ground. This authority would control the extent of the mining of these ores which are the only known materials from which energy can be released in substantial amounts by the fission of the atom. Production would be strictly related to consumption and there would be no accumulated stocks to cause anxiety.

The authority would own, operate, and manage all facilities handling dangerous amounts of fissionable material. It would conduct research in the field of atomic energy except that research requiring non-dangerous quantities only would be freely licensed with provision for full publication of findings.

The authority would administer the "quotas" of atomic energy materials, facilities or power allocated to each nation in accordance with the proposed atomic energy treaty and would build and operate plants within the nation's quota. No nation would be permitted to possess dangerous quantities of atomic fuels or to own plants for making them. Atomic weapons would be prohibited. The authority would be empowered to ascertain resources and to prevent secret activities.

It is the view of the majority that only with such a system operating satisfactorily would countries possessing atomic weapons be justified in disposing of their stocks of bombs and facilities for making them and giving to the world their secrets for the production of atomic energy. These nations feel that the only way by which security can be given in the world lies in the complete elimination of secrecy in atomic matters together with the institution of international inspection and control on such a comprehensive basis that it will provide adequate and acceptable safeguards against all possibility of the hazards of violations and evasions.

The majority of the members of the Commission are convinced not only that the system they have proposed will give the safeguards needed but that it is the only method by which this desired end can be achieved.