

country is as yet endowed with these skills on such a lavish basis nor is it likely that any other country could make this diversion without destroying, or at the least seriously crippling, their national economy.

In the light of what I have said as to the great magnitude and long continued efforts required for the preparation of atomic war, it seems reasonably probable that we need not fear its outbreak on any significant scale for a while yet. There is thus no occasion for hysteria but, on the other hand, it would be folly to waste the time which remains to us through a failure to give proper consideration to the defensive measures which are open, and in particular to advance by every means within our power the setting up of an international agreement which will effectively protect the peoples of the world.

The first international step towards the creation of such an agreement was made very shortly after the termination of the war by the United States, Great Britain and Canada, the three countries which were associated in the wartime project. The Washington declaration on atomic energy issued on November 15, 1945, by President Truman, Prime Minister Attlee and Prime Minister King recognized the need for an international agreement and proposed as a matter of great urgency the setting up of a Commission under the United Nations to study the problem and to make recommendations for its control. These discussions were followed by a meeting of the Foreign Ministers in Moscow in December, 1945, at which the Washington proposals were endorsed. At the meeting of the General Assembly on January 24, 1946, in London, the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission was established by unanimous resolution.

The Commission, composed of delegates from each country represented on the Security Council, as well as Canada when Canada is not a member of the Council, was charged with making specific proposals:

- (a) For extending between all nations an exchange of basic scientific information on peaceful ends,
- (b) For the control of atomic energy to the extent necessary to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes,
- (c) For the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction,
- (d) For effective safeguards by way of inspection and other means to protect complying states against the hazards of violations and evasions.

When the Commission first met in New York in June, 1946, it was presented with two different plans for the control of atomic energy, one proposed by the United States and the other by the Soviet Union. The United States proposal generally resembled that outlined in the Lilienthal Report, which had been released in the United States a few months previously. It called for the formation of an International Atomic Development Authority, which would foster beneficial uses of atomic energy and would control atomic activities in all nations either by direct ownership, management or supervision, in the case of activities potentially dangerous to world security, or by a licensing and inspection system in the case of other activities. This system of control would be set up by stages and, after it was in operation, the manufacture of atomic bombs would stop, existing bombs would be disposed of, and the