

of them - were to decide to go its own way, to keep its knowledge solely for the benefit of its own peoples, and to refuse to co-operate for the general welfare of all peoples.

Every government looks at a major question of policy from the point of view of its own experience. If I may, without disgracing too far from the immediate business in hand, I should like to explain why, from our own experience, the Canadian Government supports the present move towards international co-operation.

Canadian experience shows what can be achieved through such forms of co-operation open to us by a country of modest resources and attainments. There are few countries in the world that have the scientific, technological and financial resources to break their way into the atomic age unaided. The United States, for example, has spent more than 12 billion dollars for the development of atomic energy. The Canadian programme owes much to the invaluable assistance we have received from the United States, as well as the United Kingdom, during and since the war. Now that so much of the basic research and development work has been done by the pioneering countries, there is no point in others going over the same ground, conducting the same experiments, engineering the same development, in order to arrive several years hence at the practical benefits which are already attainable through international co-operation.

Since the Second World War, the efforts of Canadian scientists have been devoted almost exclusively to the peaceful application of atomic energy, and in particular to the problems of power development.

Thanks very largely to the complete pooling of the Canadian and United Kingdom atomic projects during the latter part of the war, Canadian scientists found themselves, by the time the war in the Pacific ended in the fortunate position of having in operation the only atomic reactor anywhere outside the United States. Building on the experience gained from this small experimental reactor, our scientists were able to complete two years later, that is in September 1947, the now famous NRX Reactor at Chalk River. This is the reactor the Director of the United States Atomic Energy Commission's Reactor Development Programme called in 1949 "the reactor of most advanced design and performance anywhere in the world". More recently, in the Purvis Memorial lecture a few months ago, Sir John Cockroft, to whom the Canadian Government owes a very great debt of gratitude, called the Chalk River NRX Reactor "by far the world's most powerful.. owing to its high rating in megawatts per ton....for studying the economics of natural uranium reactors".