

Canada and the United Nations

On Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy

On December 8, 1953, in a memorable speech to the General Assembly of the United Nations, President Eisenhower proposed that the governments principally involved, to the extent permitted by elementary prudence, should begin now and continue to make joint contributions from their stockpiles of normal uranium and fissionable materials to an international atomic energy agency. President Eisenhower added, "We would expect that such an agency would be set up under the aegis of the United Nations". He pointed out that undoubtedly initial and early contributions to this plan would be small in quantity, however the proposal had the great virtue that it could be undertaken without the irritations and mutual suspicions incident to any attempt to set up a completely acceptable system of worldwide inspection and control. President Eisenhower said that the United States would be more than willing—it would be proud to take up with others "principally involved" the development of plans whereby such peaceful uses of atomic energy would be expedited. "Of those principally involved the Soviet Union must of course be one."

As President Eisenhower had made his proposals to the General Assembly of the United Nations, it was to be expected that at the session held this autumn the United States would wish to have them considered by the Assembly. Accordingly last September 23, Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., the Chairman of the United States Delegation to the General Assembly, requested that an item entitled "International co-operation in developing the peaceful uses of atomic energy: Report of the United States of America" to be added to the agenda of the General Assembly as an important and urgent question.

Canadian Approval

Inaugurating the general debate in the Assembly on the same day, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson signified Canadian approval in the following words:

Canada, like the United States and other free countries principally involved with atomic energy matters, believes that even in the absence, the regrettable absence of Soviet participation, an international atomic energy agency along the lines proposed by President Eisenhower could usefully be formed by the nations willing to subscribe to its aims and support its activities. My country is in a position to make a useful contribution to this work—the work of such an agency and will be glad to do so.

Mr. Dulles, the United States Secretary of State, confirmed that in spite of general world approval of President Eisenhower's proposals the private negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on the proposals had been fruitless. A note delivered to his government on the preceding day however, had indicated Soviet willingness to continue discussion on this subject. Mr. Dulles said that the United States was still ready to negotiate with the U.S.S.R. but would no longer allow these negotiations to delay the establishment of an international atomic energy agency.