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There was recognition at the outset that the vast significance of the discovery of the release of atomic energy was not yet fully comprehended; that very few realized the far-reaching effect of the discovery upon the future of the world. It was agreed that the discovery had placed at the disposal of mankind means of destruction hitherto unknown, and against which there could be no adequate military defence, and in the employment of which no single nation could, in fact, have a monopoly. In a word, it was agreed that civilization could not survive an atomic war. It was also recognized that it was impossible to isolate the problem of the atomic bomb from the problem of the use of other weapons of destruction. The atomic bomb was seen as the latest word in destructiveness, but not necessarily the last.

The truth is that no system of safeguards that can be devised will of itself provide an effective guarantee against production of atomic weapons by a nation bent on aggression. Nor can we overlook the probability of the development of other major weapons of mass destruction, or of new methods of warfare which may constitute an ever greater threat to civilization than the military use of atomic energy. At Washington, we were therefore called upon to consider not merely the elimination of the atomic bomb as a weapon of war, but also the kind of world