

considered by the Department of Justice of my government as rendering the speaker liable to prosecution. Here was a case where the author of a war-mongering statement could have been prosecuted under the law had it not been for the unfortunate fact that he was a member of a foreign Embassy in Ottawa and therefore escaped from legal prosecution. Fortunately, such cases are very rare.

In coming to paragraph 3 of the Soviet proposal we find the suggestion that Governments should be invited to prohibit "on pain of criminal penalties" the "carrying-on of war propaganda in any form".

This proposal apparently means that Governments should take it upon themselves to determine whether certain statements of their citizens, mainly statements of opinion, are to be deemed to be war propaganda and should see to it that criminal penalties are imposed on those who make such statements.

I must say that the assumption or exercise of any such authority by the government would be out of the question in a country such as ours where liberty of the press and freedom of speech have been and continue to be regarded as fundamental freedoms. The cure is not to be found in suppression but in freedom to counter falsehood by truth. The people of Canada are quite able to judge as between opinions that may be expressed and form their own views as their conscience may direct. It seems a pity indeed that the Soviet delegation which has asked governments to undertake this serious responsibility, has not on its own record shown itself to feel under any obligation to exercise restraint on press and radio comment in its own country. This is all the more strange because as we understand it the press of the Soviet Union exercises its functions with a special sense of responsibility to the Government. And yet we hear every day hostile expressions of opinion which are not calculated, to say the least, to develop friendly relations among nations, nor to strengthen the desire for universal peace.

We now turn to the fourth paragraph of the Soviet resolution. The Canadian delegation notes in the first place that this paragraph contains an interpretation of the Assembly resolutions of January 24 and December 14, 1946, which does not accord with the text of these documents. These resolutions do not concern only the question of the exclusion from national armaments of the atomic and all other main types of armaments designed for mass destruction. Both resolutions explicitly refer to the establishment of a system of international control along with elimination of atomic weapons from national armaments.

I know that it has been the endeavour of the Soviet delegation to persuade us over many months that the control of atomic energy to the extent necessary to ensure its use for peaceful purposes only, can be made the subject of a separate convention, which would follow an international agreement outlawing the use and manufacture of atomic weapons.

The majority of the Atomic Energy Commission, in spite of repetitious argument on this point, have not been persuaded and still maintain the view that effective international control of atomic energy is the real issue which must be solved, and that this cannot be achieved either by a mere diplomatic document saying that the manufacture and use of atomic weapons is being prohibited, nor by the later Soviet proposal that periodic inspection and check is sufficient.