

As I said a moment ago, the NRX reactor is a high powered research tool which has also proven to be of great value in the production of isotopes. In offering to make such a reactor available to India the Prime Minister of Canada expressed the hope that in research and in the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy this reactor would serve India as well as it had served Canada. In accepting the offer, the Prime Minister of India indicated that his Government would be prepared to allow accredited foreign scientists including those from other Colombo Plan countries in south and southeast Asia to use the facilities that will be available at the Atomic Energy Centre in India where the reactor will be located.

It is the hope of the Canadian Government that the NRX reactor to be built in India will make a significant contribution to the development throughout the whole of south and southeast Asia of the technological skills and research capacity prerequisite to the general application of atomic energy for the benefit of all nations in that part of the world.

This short survey of the Canadian atomic energy programme will show, I hope, that in close association with larger powers we have been able to achieve considerable progress in research and development for peaceful purposes and to share the results of our work with other countries. We consider that the prospects of co-operative arrangements for the peaceful uses of atomic energy are encouraging. The success of the scientific conference suggests that the political and scientific circumstances may now be favourable for the launching of more ambitious schemes. In the proposed agency, we have, I think, the instrument which would make it possible to undertake operations in this field on a permanent and much wider basis than the conference could provide. It is therefore my hope that the opportunity will not be lost and that, together, under the aegis of the United Nations we will advance to occupy what is almost a new continent which should be developed for the good of all nations and in the interests of Peace.

I know of no better way to conclude what I have to say than to quote the words used by the distinguished Indian scientist, Dr. Bhabha, who presided at the Geneva Conference: "It is to be hoped that through the remarkable improvement in the political climate which has taken place recently, and which we hope will continue, the barriers which remain will gradually disappear altogether. If so much has been achieved through the individual and isolated efforts of a few countries, how much more could be achieved by the combined effort of all. Those who have the good fortune to participate in this Conference are privileged to be in the vanguard of the march of history. We have the unique opportunity of giving of our knowledge to others for the common good. I hope this Conference will play its part in helping the progress of mankind towards the ever-widening dawn of the atomic age, with the promise of a life, fuller and happier than anything we can visualize today."

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