

argument and decision. Nevertheless we will continue to make our decisions objectively, in the light of our obligations to our own people and their interest in the welfare of the international community.

This, therefore, is the underlying policy of my Government towards the United Nations. I would like now to turn from the general to the specific and to give an account of the position which Canada has taken on those important issues which have come before the United Nations under the broad heading of collective security.

COLLECTIVE SECURITY

(a) The International Control of Atomic Energy

One of the most important issues which have come before the United Nations in its short existence concerns the attempt to set up a universally acceptable method for the international control of atomic energy. As you all know, the General Assembly established an Atomic Energy Commission for this purpose nearly two and a half years ago and yet no such generally acceptable agreement has so far been reached. The Atomic Energy Commission has now made three reports and these were recently discussed in the Security Council. Again no agreement was reached in the Council and the most that could be achieved was a resolution which transmitted the Atomic Energy Commission's Reports for consideration at the next Session of the General Assembly "as a matter of special concern".

I would like to mention in some detail the views of my Government on this subject and our understanding of the reasons for the impasse which has developed. These views were expressed by me on instructions from my Government, at a meeting of the Security Council, June 11, 1948. In the first place it is a matter of profound disappointment to us that the Atomic Energy Commission, after two years of sincere effort to fulfill its mandate, must now report failure to reach agreement. The reason for this lack of agreement is set out clearly in the various reports of the Atomic Energy Commission. In our view, the situation revealed in these reports does not call for mutual recriminations but rather for a serious effort to face up to realities; for no one can fail to realize the dangers resulting from international rivalry in the field of atomic energy and, in particular, from competitive efforts to obtain atomic weapons. This dangerous condition will confront the world so long as a universally acceptable and enforceable agreement for control does not exist.

The divergence of view which months of patient discussion in the Atomic Energy Commission has failed to resolve has, as you are all probably aware, arisen in consequence of the insistence of the Soviet Union that a convention outlawing atomic weapons, and providing for their destruction must precede any agreement for the establishment of a system of international control. The majority of the Commission, including Canada, on the other hand hold the view that such a convention, unless accompanied by effective safeguards, would offer no protection to the nations of the world.

Throughout all the efforts of the Commission I can claim that the Canadian delegation has devoted itself to the search for a method of control which would give security to all nations. We have, I believe, shown that we were willing to examine with an open mind any and all proposals put before us including those which were advanced by the Soviet delegation.

We had hoped that technological and scientific facts as revealed in the discussions of the Scientific and Technical Committee and through the testimony of experts, would point the way to what was necessary for effective control and thereby provide a basis for agreement. If these efforts have not as yet proved successful, I would emphasize that this should not be regarded as an acceptance of defeat.