

# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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## THE PRESENT POSITION IN REGARD TO INTERNATIONAL CONTROL OF ATOMIC ENERGY

Address by General A.G.L. McNaughton, Permanent Delegate of Canada to the United Nations, at the First Session of the New York Herald Tribune Forum for High-schools, New York, March 6, 1948.

I value very much indeed the opportunity which you have given me to say a few words on the subject of "The International Control of Atomic Energy". This is a subject which I think has become of transcendent importance in the relations between nations and in fact I would venture the opinion that the development of a satisfactory solution to this acute problem and the institution of appropriate safeguards are among the indispensable conditions for the establishment and maintenance of stable peace throughout the world.

The first step towards the creation of an international agreement for the control of atomic energy was made very shortly after the termination of the war by the United States, Great Britain and Canada, the three countries which were associated in the wartime project. The Washington declaration on atomic energy issued on 15 November 1945, by President Truman, Prime Minister Attlee and Prime Minister Mackenzie King recognized the need for an international agreement and proposed as a matter of great urgency the setting up of a Commission under the United Nations to study the problem and to make recommendations for its control.

These discussions were followed by a meeting of the Foreign Ministers in Moscow in December, 1945, at which the Washington proposals were endorsed. At the meeting of the General Assembly on 24 January 1946 in London, the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission was established by unanimous resolution.

The Commission, composed of delegates from each country represented on the Security Council, as well as Canada when Canada is not a member of the Council, was charged with making specific proposals, among other matters "for the control of atomic energy to the extent necessary to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes", and "for effective safeguards by way of inspection and other means to protect complying states against the hazards of violations and evasions."

When the Commission first met in New York in June, 1946, it was presented with two different plans for the control of atomic energy, one proposed by the United States and the other by the Soviet Union. The United States proposals generally resembled those outlined in the Acheson-Lillenthal Report, which had been released in the United States a few months previously. It called for the formation of an International Atomic Development Authority, which would foster beneficial uses of atomic energy and would control atomic activities in all nations either by direct ownership, management or supervision, in the case of activities potentially dangerous to world security, or by a licensing and inspection system in the case of other activities. This system of control would be set up by stages and after it was in operation, the manufacture of atomic bombs would stop. Existing bombs would be disposed of, and the world authority would be given information regarding the production of atomic