

As the members of this Committee know, the United States, United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Australia, South Africa, Portugal and Canada are taking part in these negotiations -- one might more accurately speak at the present time of "consultations", for they have only just begun. No doubt some of the members not at present included in the negotiations or consultations may feel that they have a legitimate claim to take part in the agency from the outset. However, I think it will be generally conceded, that with the exception of the U.S.S.R. -- to whom the door is always open -- there are no countries who could claim, on the basis of their atomic research and development and of their resources of fissionable material, that they have a better claim to be in on the first round than any of the present eight. As has been explained by the speakers who have preceded me, it is our hope and intention that as soon as there is a substantial degree of agreement among the eight governments now negotiating, the circle of consultations should be broadened. At a still later stage, when the agency is established, it should negotiate an appropriate form of agreement with the United Nations, similar to those of the Specialized Agencies. This would be done in accordance with Articles 57 and 63 of the Charter. At that stage there would, therefore, be an opportunity for all states, which have not previously been consulted in one form or another, to express their views before the new specialized agency of the United Nations was finally constituted and its working relationships with other United Nations organs defined.

In any series of negotiations, one must start somewhere. I doubt whether any of the Specialized Agencies came into existence as a result of initial negotiations involving 60 or more countries. In most cases the plans for the agencies were worked out by a smaller group of the countries principally involved and, after adjustments to take into account the views of other countries which had not been consulted initially, the agency's relationship with the United Nations was negotiated and confirmed. There is therefore nothing unusual in the present procedure except perhaps in the fact that, in view of the very great importance of the subject matter of the proposed agency, the organizing group of states is coming to the Assembly at an unusually early stage in the negotiations.

In the normal course there is bound to be a considerable gap in time between the formulation of new scientific theories and their practical application to our everyday life. In the development of atomic energy, the exigencies of war and the great concentration of the scientific knowledge of a number of countries, together with the devotion of enormous sums of money, made possible a phenomenal speeding up of the normal progression between theory and application. The application of atomic energy to peaceful purposes has also been vastly facilitated by the research and development of a few countries. It would be tragic if these countries - or any one