

In concluding his remarks on the North Atlantic Treaty in the House on that date he said:

We have before us a task which will call forth all our reserves of intelligence, good will and imagination. It is not the negative, though vitally important, task of containing Russian imperialism. It is the positive task of creating a free community of free states, strong not only in its military resources, but in the prosperity of its people and the power of its free, progressive institutions.

Atomic Energy

As one of the six permanent members of the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission, Canada continued to take an active part in the Atomic Energy debates of the United Nations. Although agreement with the Soviet Union on international control appeared as remote as ever, a resolution was sponsored by the Canadian and French delegations calling upon the permanent members "to continue their consultations, to explore all possible avenues and examine all concrete suggestions with a view to determining whether they might lead to an agreement securing the basic objectives of the General Assembly. . ." This resolution was adopted by the General Assembly on November 23 by the overwhelming vote of forty-nine in favour, five against, and three abstaining—a substantially larger majority than was obtained at the 1948 Assembly in Paris. A fuller account of these activities will be found in *Canada and the United Nations — 1949*.

The conclusion of an agreement for the effective international control of atomic energy for peaceful purposes remains the goal of Canadian policy in atomic matters; but the continuation of the deadlock in the United Nations discussions has led the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canadian Governments to re-examine their present arrangements for co-operation among themselves, particularly in the light of the North Atlantic Treaty, which came into force in August 1949. The announcement in September of the Soviet atomic explosion gave this matter still greater urgency, and during the autumn of 1949 informal exploratory talks at the official level were held in Washington by representatives of the three countries.