

The International Atomic Energy Agency

IN one of the most important international conferences since the end of the Second World War, representatives of more than 80 countries will meet in September at United Nations headquarters in New York to consider detailed proposals for the establishment of an International Atomic Energy Agency within the framework of the United Nations.

In a speech to the United Nations General Assembly in December 1953, President Eisenhower of the United States first proposed formally "that the governments principally involved, to the extent permitted by elementary prudence, should begin now and continue to make joint contributions from their stockpiles of normal uranium and fissionable materials" to an international atomic energy agency in order to further the development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes throughout the world.

President Eisenhower's proposal was debated at the ninth session of the General Assembly which on December 4, 1954, approved unanimously a resolution expressing the hope that the International Atomic Energy Agency would be established without delay.

During the first half of 1955, representatives of Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Portugal, South Africa, and the United Kingdom, at a series of meetings at Washington, prepared a draft statute for the proposed international agency which was given general circulation in August 1955, to other countries. The question of establishing the new agency was subsequently considered at the tenth session of the General Assembly, which on December 3, 1955, adopted a resolution, (co-sponsored by Canada), noting with satisfaction the progress being made toward the establishment of the Agency and welcoming the "extension of invitations to the governments of Brazil, Czechoslovakia, India, and the U.S.S.R. to participate as governments concerned with the present sponsoring governments" in further negotiations.

Drafting the Statute

The representatives of the eight co-sponsors and of the four countries named in the Assembly resolution began meetings in Washington on February 27, 1956, using as a basis for discussion the draft statute which had been circulated to governments in August of the preceding year. The Canadian delegation was led by Canada's Ambassador to the United States, Mr. A. D. P. Heeney, with Mr. G. P. deT. Glazebrook, Minister at the Embassy in Washington, as his alternate. Advisers were Mr. W. J. Bennett, President, and Mr. D. Watson, Secretary, of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited; Dr. J. D. Babbitt, Scientific Attaché at the Embassy in Washington; Mr. S. Pollock, of the Department of Finance; Mr. M. A. Crowe, of the Canadian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, and Mr. W. H. Barton and Mr. D. H. W. Kirkwood, of the Department of External Affairs.