

Now, having tried to explain how and why we are proposing to negotiate for the establishment of an International Atomic Energy Agency, I should like to say a few words to supplement what my United States and United Kingdom colleagues have already told us about the nature and functions of the Agency which we hope will be set up.

It seems to my Government that the most immediate need is for information and training to spread the technology required for the application of atomic energy for peaceful purposes on a wide scale. In the present state of the science, it would be visionary to imagine that if by this time next year the International Agency has been set up it would shortly thereafter be in a position to start exporting power reactors to various parts of the world. The first economically practicable reactor has, so far as we know, yet to be built. In fact, although we may be across the threshold of the atomic age, as Mr. Lodge said, we are not yet beyond the anteroom of the age of atomic power. I say this as plainly as I can to prevent possible misconceptions being followed by a certain disillusionment.

My Government does hope, however, that the Agency, when established, would assist other countries participating in the Agency's programme to set up their own research reactors and to join with those countries already possessing them in pressing forward with the search for developing atomic power on an economic basis and with the whole range of other actual and potential applications of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. In order to construct reactors and carry on useful creative research in this field, it is necessary not only to have the technical information on the subject, - much of it, as I have said, already available - but one must also have scientists, engineers and technicians trained at least to some degree in the use and interpretation of these extremely complicated research tools. For this reason we believe that the Agency should foster not only the inter-change of information on peaceful uses but should facilitate where possible the arrangements which will have to be made for those countries who wish to set up research reactors to have their people suitably trained. The Agency should in fact encourage world-wide research and development and should in fact encourage world-wide research and development and should in addition be in a position to arrange for the nuclear materials which will be needed for this purpose. In this connection, I may say that Canada would be a potential source not only of information but of raw material and fissile material.

Our aim, in short, is to see established a specialized agency of the United Nations which would initially promote the various objectives I have enumerated, which would help to meet the first requirement of more information and more training in this field, and which would facilitate countries participating to set up their own research reactors. I do not see how I can say very much more at the present very early stage of negotiations.