

States, and at the Ninth General Assembly in 1954 co-sponsored a resolution to help give effect to the Eisenhower plan. This resolution won the unanimous support of all sixty member nations.

In addition to expressing the hope that an International Atomic Energy Agency would be established without delay, the 1954 Resolution called for a scientific Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. This conference was convened at Geneva last August and was one of the largest and most successful scientific meetings ever held. Since the origins of atomic science are international, one of the most valuable features of the Geneva scientific conference was the opportunity it gave to nations with large and long-established atomic energy programs to repay their debt to international science by making information acquired in secrecy during the past fifteen years available for the benefit of all.

In the light of this encouraging progress, the Tenth General Assembly took another important step forward in implementing the Eisenhower plan. It adopted a resolution -- again unanimously -- calling for the establishment of a negotiating committee, consisting of representatives from twelve nations, to consider the draft charter for an International Atomic Energy Agency which had already been drawn up by eight Western nations and circulated for comment to all members of the United Nations.

Perhaps the most fundamental question to be considered by this Committee -- which began its deliberations in Washington earlier this month -- is the relationship of the proposed Agency to the United Nations. It must decide whether the Agency will report to the Security Council and so be subject to the paralyzing effect of the veto -- as the Soviet Union has proposed -- or whether it will be a semi-autonomous body having a relationship to the United Nations similar to that of the Specialized Agencies like the World Health Organization.

The recommendations on this and other questions that are made by this twelve-nation negotiating committee will later be considered by a wider conference attended by representatives of the many nations that might be expected to participate in the work of the Agency.

In addition to laying the groundwork for international co-operation on the peaceful uses of atomic energy, the Tenth General Assembly, by unanimous resolution, set up a fifteen-member scientific Committee to make a comprehensive study of all available information on the possible effects of atomic radiation on human health. A great deal is already known concerning the health effects of radioactivity and the work of this Committee in assembling and reviewing the body of existing scientific knowledge will do much to ensure that we will not leave to future generations a legacy of ignorance on this vital matter.