

the same materials which are useful to the peaceful arts are also the identic materials of the bomb and in the hands of unscrupulous persons, even in comparatively small quantities, may be a terrible menace to our security.

It is for this reason that, in all matters related to atomic energy, the requirements of national defence must take precedence. There can be no compromise of security until the position has been made safe by means of an international agreement for the control of atomic energy which will give acceptable safeguards.

The solution of this problem is not a simple matter. The secrets of nature being uncovered by the scientists cannot be wiped from the world's memory by edict or decree. The presence of fissionable material is a fact, for good or for evil, and certainly mankind will not consent to be deprived of the manifest advantages of atomic energy merely because of the destructive possibilities of its misuse.

The first step toward the creation of such an international agreement was made very shortly after the termination of the war by the United States, Great Britain and Canada in a declaration issued at Washington, D.C. on November 15, 1945. Recognizing the need for an international agreement, the President of the United States, and the Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom and Canada proposed, as a matter of great urgency, the setting up of a Commission under the United Nations to study the problem and to make recommendations for its control.

This declaration was followed by a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the United States, the United Kingdom, and the U.S.S.R. in Moscow in December, 1945, at which the Washington proposals were endorsed. These three Governments then invited France, China, and Canada to join with them in sponsoring the proposal at the General Assembly. At the first meeting of the General Assembly on January 24, 1946 in London, the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission was established by unanimous resolution.

The membership of this Commission comprises the 11 countries members for the time being of the Security Council, that is the 5 permanent members and the 6 non-permanent members each elected for 2 year terms; Canada, as one of the original sponsors continues to be included even when she is not a member of the Security Council. The Commission is charged with making specific proposals, among other matters "for the control of atomic energy to the extent necessary to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes," and "for effective safeguards by way of inspection and other means to protect complying states against the hazards of violations and evasions."

The Atomic Energy Commission first met in New York in June 1946 and during the following two years -- up to June 1948 -- in the course of some 240 meetings, it produced three reports.

In all, seventeen nations have served on the Commission for various periods and of these, fourteen, including Canada, are in agreement as to the general nature of the system of control required. The other three, which are the U.S.S.R. and the Soviet-dominated states of Poland and the Ukraine, hold different views. The plan of the majority provides for the creation of an international atomic agency which would own in trust for the nations of the world all uranium and thorium after