

vided the first opportunity for scientists to discuss problems connected with atomic energy. Discussions were confined to purely scientific and technical fields and avoided divisive, political issues. One of the main benefits of the Conference was that it helped to make people aware, perhaps for the first time, of the complex problems which must be solved before atomic energy can be economically exploited.

Canada took an active part in the Conference and also in the preparations for it. The delegation which attended the Conference included economists and scientists from Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, several universities, the Government service, and representatives from several Canadian firms interested in the industrial applications of nuclear energy. Dr. W. B. Lewis, Vice-President of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, was a member of the Secretary-General's advisory committee, which laid the plans for the Conference, and was also one of the vice-presidents of the Conference itself. Besides the delegation, Canada sent a scientific exhibit to the Conference which included models of both NRX and NRU reactors and theratron beam therapy units used for the treatment of cancer.

Subsequent to the debate and resolution at the ninth session of the General Assembly, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Portugal, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States prepared a draft statute for the proposed International Agency which was circulated in August 1955 by the United States, on behalf of all the above-mentioned sponsoring governments, to other countries. The functions of the proposed Agency, as provided in the draft statute, would be to encourage and assist research and development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, and to make provision for nuclear materials and the exchange of scientific information to accomplish this purpose. Any nation which is a member of the United Nations or any of the Specialized Agencies and is prepared to subscribe to the purposes of the Agency would be eligible for membership. The Agency would consist of a General Conference of Members, a Board of Governors, and a staff. The draft statute describes in detail how scientific information is to be exchanged, how members are to contribute nuclear materials, how projects involving provision of technical assistance and nuclear materials are to be approved, and how the Agency is to be financed.

The matter was subsequently considered at the tenth session of the General Assembly, which on December 3, 1955 adopted a resolution, again 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.

The next step will be for the negotiating group of nations to reach agreement on the draft statute, following which it will be considered by a conference with representation from all prospective member nations.

Effects of Atomic Radiation

During 1954 and 1955, as a result of repeated nuclear tests made by the major powers, there was increasing interest and apprehension throughout the world about the effects of atomic radiation on all forms of life including the health of succeeding generations of human beings. Assurances were given by the United States Government that the amount of additional exposure to radiation resulting from all nuclear tests during the last decade had not had serious effects on human health. Irrespective of any military use of atomic