

the minority will accept the majority view. When this transpires it will be relatively easy to settle the particulars of the International Organization required. A conclusion in this sense was recorded in Committee 2 on Tuesday, 30 March 1948.

Fully half the time and attention of the members of the Commission during this year have been devoted to a meticulous re-examination of the Soviet proposals in detail to make abundantly certain that no possible misconception of their purport should stand in the way of agreement. However, it is evident that there is no misconception and there thus remains a very wide gap between the views of the U.S.S.R. now echoed by the Ukraine and those of the rest of the Commission.

On Monday, 5 April 1948, Committee 1 took note of this position and accepted a report prepared by the representatives of the United Kingdom, France, China and Canada, in which the Soviet proposals are fully analysed and the reasons for their inadequacy stated in detail. Thus the two principal Committees of the Atomic Energy Commission have reached the conclusion that no useful purpose will be served by continuing their discussions at present.

The conclusions of Committees 1 and 2 as to the inadequacy of the Soviet proposals and the views of the majority on the situation have now been included in a Draft of the Commission's 3rd Report which, as I have said, was presented to the Atomic Energy Commission on Friday, 7 May 1948, given first reading and referred to Governments for preliminary opinion and instruction to their delegations. It is expected that the consideration of this Report will continue in the week commencing 16 May and that thereafter as I indicated it will go to the Security Council and thence to the General Assembly in September.

As I have remarked we may be disappointed at this suspension of our work in the Commission but I certainly think that we should not be unduly cast down on this account, and we should certainly not underestimate the value and significance of the progress which has been made.

When the Commission began its sessions in June of 1946, now nearly two years ago, there was little to go on beyond a conviction that the dread potentialities of atomic war needed to be brought under effective international control. Since then the problem has been examined in its many intricacies and multitude of aspects. Gradually through the more than 240 regular meetings which have been held and the many informal discussions which have taken place a consensus of opinion has formed and found expression until today nine nations out of the eleven members of the Commission believe that they have found the right path forward. The circumstances that the U.S.S.R. does not yet agree should not be regarded too seriously at this stage. As a matter of fact the delegate of the U.S.S.R. has made substantial contributions to the discussion and at the least the U.S.S.R. has formed an anvil on which the rest of us have had an opportunity to forge and hammer out the conclusions we have now reached.

Up to date we have been more anxious that the U.S.S.R. should continue to be represented in the discussions and less concerned that they would at once agree to the majority proposals. We first of all had to find out for ourselves what it was to which we wished them to agree. I think I can claim that we have felt so convinced of the necessity for proper control and we are now so genuine in our belief as to how it must be brought about that we feel that something of this sincerity must find its way through to the people of Russia. It is a fact that no people would benefit more than they would from what we have proposed and so both on the grounds of benefit from the peaceful application as well as of security it is not too much to hope that eventually a way will be found to traverse the opposition of those who presently control the policy of the Soviet.