

10. The views of the Canadian Government on this subject and the Canadian understanding of the reasons for the impasse which has developed were expressed by Mr. St. Laurent on instructions from his Government, at a meeting of the Security Council on June 11, 1948. It has been a matter of profound disappointment to Canada that the Atomic Energy Commission, after two years of sincere effort to fulfill its mandate, must now report failure to reach agreement. The reason for this lack of agreement is set out clearly in the various reports of the Atomic Energy Commission. In the Canadian view, the situation revealed in these Reports does not call for mutual recriminations but rather for a serious effort to face up to realities; for no one can fail to realize the dangers resulting from international rivalry in the field of atomic energy and, in particular, from competitive efforts to obtain atomic weapons. This dangerous condition will confront the world so long as a universally acceptable and enforceable agreement for control does not exist.

11. The divergence of view, which months of patient discussion in the Atomic Energy Commission failed to bridge, arose in consequence of the insistence of the Soviet Union that a convention outlawing atomic weapons, and providing for their destruction, must precede any agreement for the establishment of a system of international control. On the other hand, the majority of the Commission, including Canada, held the view that such a convention, unless accompanied by effective safeguards, would offer no protection to the nations of the world.

12. Throughout all the efforts of the Commission the Canadian delegation devoted itself to the search for a method of control which would give security to all nations. The Canadian representatives were willing to examine with an open mind any and all proposals put before them, including those which were advanced by the Soviet delegation.

13. The Canadian representatives hoped that technological and scientific facts, as revealed in the discussions of the Scientific and Technical Committee, and through the testimony of experts, would point the way to what was necessary for effective control and thereby provide a basis for agreement. If these efforts have not proved successful, this should not be regarded as an acceptance of defeat.

14. The majority of the members of the Commission have clearly been convinced that the proposals evolved in these three Reports do provide the essential basis for the establishment of an effective system of international control of atomic energy. In the Canadian view it is appropriate that those who have been associated with developing these proposals through months of work should now submit the results of their efforts to the test of world opinion in a wider forum - namely in the General Assembly itself.

15. If the work of the Atomic Energy Commission is now to be suspended, there still remains the challenge to the peoples of the world to find a solution to the problem of the control of this force, potentially so destructive to mankind if left uncontrolled. The essential facts of atomic energy are set out clearly in the various reports of the Commission. The great majority of the states represented on the Commission have been able to draw the same conclusions from these facts. The Canadian Government earnestly hopes that those who now disagree with these states may yet come to share their view.

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