

other for what the Soviet termed as "effective international control of atomic energy". Both conventions were to be signed and "to enter into force and actual operation simultaneously".

Formerly the Soviet had insisted on prohibition and destruction of existing stocks as a prerequisite. They now presented this latest proposal as a great concession in the interests of reaching agreement.

It did not add in the least to the safety of the world to have "simultaneous" control when the elements of that control would lack the character deemed necessary to provide acceptable safeguards which would dispel suspicion and promote cooperation between nations. It was so recognized by a great majority of the General Assembly and decisively rejected. No nation outside the Soviet group voted for it.

The draft resolution submitted by Canada calling for the submission of the three reports of the Atomic Energy Commission to the Assembly formed the framework of the debate and these reports were duly considered in the First Committee.

The resolution as adopted by the General Assembly on 4 November 1948 approved the general findings of the First Report and the specific proposals of the Second Report "as constituting the necessary basis" of an effective system of international control of atomic energy. The resolution also noted with concern the impasse which had been reached in the work of the Atomic Energy Commission as shown in the Third Report. It requested the six permanent members of the Atomic Energy Commission to consult together "in order to determine if there exists a basis for agreement on international control" and meanwhile called upon the Atomic Energy Commission "to resume its sessions, to survey its programme of work, and to proceed with the further study of such subjects as it considered to be practicable and useful". Such was the position at the conclusion of the Paris session of the General Assembly last winter.

Since the beginning of 1949, the Atomic Energy Commission, in compliance with the General Assembly's wishes, has continued to meet to review its plan of work. The Working Committee of the Atomic Energy Commission has given consideration to a proposal put forward by the Soviet Union substantially the same as the proposal they put forward in Paris, which called for the immediate preparation of draft conventions for the prohibition of atomic weapons and the control of atomic energy, the two conventions to be concluded and put into effect simultaneously. Further discussion revealed that the basic differences persisted and the representative of China proposed that the Committee conclude that no useful purpose could be served by further discussions. In a draft resolution presented by the Chinese delegation to give effect to this proposal, it was pointed out that the U.S.S.R. proposal had already been considered and rejected as not providing an adequate basis for effective international control. Moreover, the resolution pointed out that no new material had been presented in support of the Soviet proposals. In June, the Committee postponed taking a decision on the Chinese resolution and considered the General Assembly's resolution which had set the Atomic Energy Commission back to work. It shortly became clear, however, that the impasse which existed in the work of the Commission last year remained, and the representative of Cuba in conjunction with the representative of Argentina presented a draft resolution which found that nothing further useful or practicable could be done until the six permanent members of the Atomic Energy Commission had met and reported the existence of a basis for agreement. The Working Committee approved the Chinese draft resolution as well as the joint Cuban-Argentine proposal, and as the Chairman of the Working Committee concluded that the agenda had been exhausted, it was agreed that there was no occasion for a further meeting.