

historic and generous proposal before this Assembly -- a proposal which the Canadian Government immediately welcomed most heartily. It was the kind of imaginative and magnanimous initiative on a big scale which the United States Government and people have from time to time shown themselves capable of taking at opportune moments. As friends and neighbours, Canadians have long known that the United States is dedicated to peace, and that the true portrait of her motives and actions bears no resemblance to the shop-worn caricature. The President's initiative now being followed up bears this out.

As my United States and United Kingdom colleagues have already reported, the President's offer last December was followed by months of negotiations between the United States and the U.S.S.R. The diplomatic exchanges between these two governments have now been published and have been circulated to us. There is no need for me to dwell on the disappointment which the Canadian Government felt as we followed the negligible progress of these negotiations. The Government of the U.S.S.R. were, at least until comparatively recently, insisting upon the unconditional prohibition of the use of atomic weapons as a prior condition to any substantive negotiations on the setting up of an international agency which might, in spite of the continuing disagreement on disarmament, promote international co-operation in the development of peaceful uses.

I should like to make it unmistakably clear that my Government still hopes that the Government of the Soviet Union will decide to take part in the proposed atomic energy agency. We are encouraged in this hope by the fact that the Soviet Union has apparently dropped its insistence on the unconditional prohibition of atomic weapons as a precondition for negotiations both on disarmament and on an atomic energy agency. Moreover, the Soviet Representative was careful to have it recorded in the General Committee, when the agenda was being discussed, that the recommendation to inscribe the present item on our agenda had been taken unanimously. The Soviet Union's note of September 22, although none too clear on this point, also gives us some ground for believing their position may have been revised. We hope in the course of this debate that the Soviet Representative will clarify his Government's present stand.

I am glad, however, that the statements of my United States and United Kingdom colleagues could have left Mr. Vyshinsky no doubt that the door is still wide open for the Soviet Union to participate in the agency, and to participate if they so desire, not only in the operation but in the organization and establishment of the agency.

In the exchanges between the U.S.S.R. and the United States, the Soviet Government have reverted time and again to the objection that