

Since the turn of the century when the discovery of radio-activity first gave to scientists some indication of the vast amounts of energy that were latent in the atom, international co-operation has been, I would say, the outstanding characteristic of nuclear physics. Becquerel in France, Einstein in Switzerland, Neils Bohr in Denmark, Otto Hahn in Germany, Fermi in Italy, Rutherford in England and earlier in Canada - these and many others are the men who made the fundamental discoveries that culminated eventually in the dramatic demonstration of the power of the atom. Looking back over the history of these developments one cannot but be impressed by the fact that without international co-operation these achievements would have been impossible. The efforts of the post-war years to achieve, through the United Nations, a solid basis of truly international co-operation in developing the peaceful uses of atomic energy have, as I see it, been aimed at re-establishing, over as broad a field as possible consistent with elementary prudence, the co-operation which the international scientific community in happier days used to take for granted.

The three governments which had co-operated during the war in the race to develop atomic weapons for the free world were quick to urge that the new force be brought under international control and developed for peaceful purposes. The declaration of November 15, 1945, by President Truman, Mr. Atlee and Mr. Mackenzie King stated that the three countries were "prepared to share, on a reciprocal basis with others of the United Nations, detailed information concerning the practical industrial application of atomic energy just as soon as effective enforceable safeguards against its use for destructive purposes can be devised."

Two months later, on January 24, 1946, the General Assembly adopted unanimously its first resolution establishing an atomic energy commission which was in particular charged with making "specific proposals for extending between all nations the exchange of basic scientific information for peaceful ends."

During the years that followed, our hopes of securing international co-operation gradually diminished as disagreement on the prerequisite disarmament scheme hardened into deadlock.

Meanwhile the scientists of a number of countries, working for the most part without the benefits of a full interchange of information, were nevertheless succeeding in opening up new horizons for peaceful uses. However, although much of the basic information gradually became available, the tools of atomic research and development were still prohibitively expensive and the necessary materials were not everywhere available.

It was at this point, last December 8, that the President of the United States made his