

As those most familiar with the matter expected, these discussions in the Atomic Energy Commission have added nothing to what was known before. The meetings were, however, continued until the patience of the non-permanent members of the Commission became exhausted. The current work of the Commission terminated by a formal resolution proposed by Cuba and Argentina which suspended the meetings of the Commission until such time as the permanent members, after consultations among themselves should certify that a basis for the control of atomic energy existed.

The consultations between the 6 permanent members commenced on August 9, 1949 and have continued through 10 meetings held in closed sessions and with the minimum release of information to the press. The purpose of these strictures was to reduce the possibility of propaganda, in the hope that as a consequence, the statements of the Soviet delegate might become more objective.

The time has now come when a report of these discussions requires to be made to the General Assembly. This matter is under arrangement and it seems likely that the report will be made public early next week, with the General Assembly debate commencing very soon thereafter.

Atomic Energy control is the central issue in the controversy between the Soviet countries and the rest of the world. It is the issue which is causing most anxiety and public attention has been focussed on it by reason of President Truman's statement of August 23. We may expect, therefore, that the debate in the United Nations will be dynamic and difficult and dangerous.

In conclusion I would only wish to re-affirm my faith in the United Nations plan of control as approved at Paris. Every subsequent study has given increased evidence of the validity of the solution which it presents -- and equally of the certainty that there is no other safe procedure. I know that this is the conviction also of the other four Permanent Members of the Commission who think alike with us -- China, France, U.K., and U.S.A. It must be our first concern to insure that this issue is placed squarely before the Assembly unobscured by the nebulous suggestions of some well intentioned people who either do not see the dangers of the situation or who incline to an approach similar to the discredited Kellogg-Briand Pact of the 1920's. We cannot afford confusion of thought or unrealistic action in the face of the serious menace which lies behind the Iron Curtain. There is as yet no reason for undue anxiety because in technical matters we still have a substantial margin of advantage over the Soviet, a margin which we believe to be increasing. In consequence therefore there is a little time left which can safely be given to the process of education and persuasion. We must use it to the best advantage in an endeavour to carry, even yet, conviction to the peoples of the Soviet.

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