

were an exchange of precise and verified information concerning armaments and armed forces.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY DISCUSSIONS FROM 1946 to 1948

As I mentioned previously in this paper, the Atomic Energy Commission was established by a unanimous resolution of the General Assembly on January 24, 1946, which set forth the terms of reference of the Commission. When the Commission first met in June of 1946, it was presented with two plans for the international control of atomic energy; one put forward by the United States delegate and the other by the U.S.S.R. The two plans differed fundamentally, and after attempting to find a basis for agreement the Atomic Energy Commission decided to defer consideration of the political aspects of the problem until it had first determined whether control of atomic energy was practicable from a technical and scientific point of view. In this regard a committee composed of scientific and technical advisers examined the problem, and in September 1946 reported unanimously that "we do not find any basis in the available scientific facts for supposing that effective control is not technologically feasible".

In its first report to the Security Council in December 1946, the Commission set out a general plan for the international control of atomic energy based upon proposals submitted by the United States government. These proposals were then developed in detail by the Atomic Energy Commission. The result of this work was the submission to the Security Council in September 1947 of the second report of the Atomic Energy Commission. This report elaborates specific proposals for the international control of atomic energy.

MAJORITY POSITION

The plan supported by the majority of members of the Atomic Energy Commission calls for the establishment of an international atomic energy authority, which would own all uranium and thorium in trust for the nations of the world from the time these substances are taken from the ground, and which would control the mining of all such ores. Production would be strictly related to consumption and there would be no accumulation of stocks to cause anxiety. The authority would own, operate and manage all facilities handling dangerous amounts of fissionable material and thus would control directly from the starting point all the atomic energy activities in all nations.

A licensing and inspection system is contemplated under the majority plan for activities of a character less dangerous to International Peace and it is provided that the control authority would foster beneficial uses and research in national or private establishments, or educational institutions, limited to non-dangerous quantities. It is proposed that the system of control should be set up by stages, and after it is fully in operation, the manufacture of atomic weapons would cease, existing stocks would be disposed of, and the nuclear fuel converted to peaceful uses.

SOVIET POSITION

The plan proposed by the U.S.S.R. for the international control of atomic energy was first presented in June 1946, and subsequently was elaborated in June 1947; it calls for the immediate outlawing of the atomic bomb and the destruction of all existing stocks of weapons "within a three-month period". The Soviet government has admitted that international inspection and investigation is a necessary condition of any plan for international control, but it has been unwilling to accept any proposals providing for continuous inspection, and has also