

prohibition of atomic energy for destructive purposes.

"Unfortunately, in the current phase of world development, it seems that every improvement in rapidity of communication and movement has served not to promote agreement and accord between nations but to accentuate differences and sharpen disputes. Under the conditions of today, time and space have largely lost their attenuating effects on the conduct of military operations and this is particularly so in regard to the surprise use of weapons of vast and concentrated power such as the atomic bomb. This is all the more reason why we must press forward patiently and persistently in the fuller organization of the United Nations as the only real alternative to the fear of a war which might destroy our civilization.

HAS DUAL CHARACTER

"Atomic energy is not just another military weapon. It has a dual character. On the one hand there are its potentialities for cataclysmic destruction -- on the other the almost limitless possibilities for beneficent peaceful uses through which the frontiers of knowledge may be pressed back and the vistas of human understanding widened in most remarkable fashion. These visions intrigue the imagination and everyone would be very happy to facilitate this search for new knowledge by contributing the information and the help which they may have available. But, unfortunately, as matters stand, it is not in all fields that there is freedom to give or to use information, nor can this be so because the same materials which are useful to the peaceful arts are also the identic materials of the bomb and in the hands of unscrupulous persons, even in comparatively small quantities, may be a terrible menace to our security.

"It is for this reason that, in all matters related to atomic energy, the requirements of national defence must take precedence. There can be no compromise of security until the position has been made safe by means of an international agreement which will give acceptable safeguards.

"The solution of this problem is not a simple matter. The secrets of nature being uncovered by the scientists cannot be wiped from the world's memory by edict or decree. The presence of fissionable material is a fact, for good or for evil and certainly we need not expect that mankind will consent to be deprived of the manifest potential advantages of atomic energy merely because of the destructive possibilities of its misuse...."

After outlining the history of the efforts

to reach agreement on a plan for the international control of atomic energy, Gen. McNaughton added:

"....I think the members of the Commission now clearly recognize the validity of the suggestion, first given in the Acheson-Lilienthal report, that in a war of long duration it would probably not be possible to prevent the use of atomic weapons; that the worst danger to be feared is the surprise use of these terrible contrivances and, in consequence, that the real objective to be sought is to free the world from secrecy in atomic matters and to allay suspicion by giving a certainty of warning to the world if any nation should start to prepare atomic war.

"Thus under the influence of long and careful consideration some of the earlier objectives have been found to be both impracticable and unnecessary and are giving way towards something which is not only practicable and realizable, but which it seems also may be developed to give the real security required.

EARLIER PROPOSALS

"The earlier proposals called for the ownership by the Agency of all uranium and thorium ores in the ground. Now we feel that it will be sufficient if these ores pass to the Agency to be held in trust for the nations of the world after they have been mined and concentrated. This change makes for simplicity and a reduction in the organizational set-up of the Agency to manageable proportions. To check any arbitrary exercise of power by the Agency safeguards, to protect the rights and freedoms of states and individuals, have been worked out and are included in the majority proposals.

"Thus it may be that in the course of consultations of the six sponsors some progress towards understanding and perhaps agreement can be made. At any rate we will endeavour to do so...."

"I would say that in this great question there is, as yet, no reason for undue anxiety because in technical matters we can rightly feel that we still have a substantial margin of advantage over the Soviet, a margin which we believe to be increasing and which remains a real deterrent to aggression. In consequence, therefore, we believe there is, at least, a little time left which can safely be given to the process of education and persuasion. We must use this time to the best advantage to seek an agreement which will give security and in an endeavour to carry conviction to the peoples of the Soviet that our proposals are as much in their interest as in our own."

PRICE CONTROLS WITHDRAWN: The Wartime Prices and Trade Board announced on November 30 that all the remaining price controls on iron and steel products, except the price ceiling on steel scrap, have been withdrawn effective December 1.

ADMIRAL DALRYMPLE-HAMILTON'S VISIT: Admiral Sir Frederick Dalrymple-Hamilton, K.C.B., Head of the Naval Staff of the British Joint Services Mission in Washington, is in Ottawa for a three-day visit.