

atomic energy depended on uranium and thorium, control of these materials was an essential safeguard. The Commission, therefore, recommended international inspection of all mines, mills and refineries to prevent possible diversion of materials to the making of atomic bombs. As the materials assumed a more concentrated form and were therefore more directly applicable to bomb making, the Commission believed that the controls would have to be even stricter. They considered that at least certain plants producing substantial quantities of fissionable material should be placed under the exclusive operation and management of the international authority.

Concurrently with the discussions in the United Nations, the question of the control of atomic energy in Canada came before Parliament and, as a result, an Act was passed which established the Atomic Energy Control Board with the duty of controlling and supervising the development and application of atomic energy in the interest of the people of Canada, and generally of preparing to carry out the obligations which it would be necessary to assume under an international agreement of the character and scope which had been indicated in the discussions taking place in the United Nations.

You are, of course, familiar with the significant contributions made in Canada during World War II and before to the development of knowledge of nuclear physics and, in consequence, I shall not attempt tonight to describe the work which has been done or that which is in progress in the Universities, in the National Research Council or at the pilot plant at Chalk River which is operated by the National Research Council for the Board. I would like, however, to say that research in Canada is being directed to the acquisition of fundamental knowledge in nuclear physics and towards the peaceful applications of atomic energy but, in view of the dangerous possibilities of fissionable materials, the Board has issued regulations controlling dealings in these substances to ensure that they do not fall into improper hands; similarly some of the information obtained in research has a bearing on national security and naturally the Board is concerned that these matters should be properly safeguarded.

To return to the discussions of atomic energy in the United Nations, the Second Report of the Atomic Energy Commission was approved by the Commission on September 11 last and sent forward to the Security Council. Ten nations voted in favour, the U.S.S.R. voted against and Poland abstained. The Report contains specific proposals as to the powers and functions which an international agency would need to have. Particular consideration has been given to a system of checks and balances to be applied to the operations of the proposed agency through the Security Council, the General Assembly or the International Court of Justice as appropriate. These limitations have been worked out so as not to impede prompt action by the agency wherever this may be required, but at the same time to make the Agency "responsible" in the sense that we use this term in reference to our Cabinet system of government in Canada, that is, to check any arbitrary and unnecessary use of authority and to provide for methods whereby any complaints against the Agency or its staff could be fully investigated and corrected. I think I can claim that the proposals in the present Report are fully in accord with this democratic conception and yet that they do not compromise the powers needed to be exercised by the Agency in any way.

On behalf of Canada, I had the authority to state that in our few these proposals, together with the General Findings and Recommendations of the First Report, provide the essential basis for the