

The first step towards the creation of such international agreement was made very shortly after the termination of the war by the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada in a declaration which was issued at Washington, D.C. on 15 November 1945. Recognizing the need for an international agreement, these countries proposed as a matter of great urgency the setting up of a Commission under the United Nations to study the problem and to make appropriate recommendations for its control. This declaration was followed by a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the United Kingdom, the United States and the U.S.S.R., which was held in Moscow in December 1945 and at which the Washington proposals were fully endorsed. These three Governments then invited France, China and Canada to join with them in sponsoring proposals at the General Assembly.

At the meeting of the General Assembly held on 24 January 1946 in London the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission was established by unanimous resolution. I should like to recall to this Committee that the Atomic Energy Commission is composed of delegations from each of the eleven countries represented on the Security Council, as well as Canada when Canada was not a member of the Security Council. It was charged with making specific proposals. Among other matters to be included are proposals "for the control of atomic energy to the extent necessary to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes" and "for effective safeguards by way of inspection and other means to protect complying states against the hazards of violations and evasions".

When the Commission first met in New York in June 1946 it was presented with two different plans for the control of atomic energy. One was proposed by the United States and the other by the U.S.S.R.

The plan which was the result of the work of the Commission has been submitted to the General Assembly and carries the endorsement of nine out of eleven present members of the Commission. It is based on the proposals originally put forward by the United States. In brief, this plan is a great project for international collaboration on a scale far exceeding anything previously attempted.

It calls for the formation 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 these fissionable materials, and thus would control directly all the atomic energy activities in all nations which might become a potential menace to world security.

A licensing and inspection system is contemplated for activities of a less serious character, and it is provided that the authority would foster beneficial uses and research in nationally owned establishments which would be limited, of course, to non-dangerous quantities. It is proposed that this system of control should be set up by stages, and after it is fully in operation the manufacture of bombs would cease and existing stocks would be disposed of and the explosive material reclaimed for peaceful use. The authority would then be given all available information from all sources regarding the production of atomic energy and similar related matters.

In contrast with these proposals which carry the majority support, the USSR representatives have proposed a plan which differs fundamentally. They envisage the immediate outlawing of the atomic bomb and the destruction of all existing stocks of weapons within a three months period, and to this end the representative of the USSR has tabled a draft

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