

out of the national economy. No other country is as yet endowed with these skills on such a lavish basis nor is it likely that any other country could make this diversion without destroying or at the least seriously crippling their national economy.

In the light of what I have said as to the great magnitude and long continued efforts required for the preparation of atomic war, it seems reasonably probable that we need not fear its outbreak on any significant scale for a while yet. There is thus no occasion for hysteria but on the other hand it would be folly to waste the time which remains to us through a failure to give proper consideration to the defensive measures which are open and in particular to advance by every means within our power the setting up of an international agreement which will effectively protect the peoples of the world.

The first step towards the creation of such an international agreement was made very shortly after the termination of the war by the United States, Great Britain and Canada, in a declaration issued at Washington on 15 November 1945, recognizing the need for an international agreement and proposing as a matter of great urgency the setting up of a Commission under the United Nations to study the problem and to make recommendations for its control.

This was followed by a meeting of the Foreign Ministers in Moscow in December 1945, at which the Washington proposals were endorsed. At the meeting of the General Assembly on 24 January 1946 in London, the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission was established by unanimous resolution.

The Commission, composed of delegates from each country represented on the Security Council, as well as Canada, when Canada is not a member of the Security Council, was charged with making specific proposals, among other matters "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 represented with two different plans for the control of atomic energy - one proposed by the United States, and the other by the Soviet Union. The United States proposals called for the formation of an International Atomic Development authority, which would foster beneficial uses of atomic energy and would control atomic activities in all nations either by direct ownership, management or supervision, in the case of activities potentially dangerous to world security, or by a licensing and inspection system in the case of other activities. This system of control would be set up by stages and after it was in operation, the manufacture of atomic bombs would cease. Existing bombs would be disposed of, and the world authority would be given information regarding the production of atomic energy. In addition, the United States proposal emphasized that the veto of the Great Powers in the Security Council should not apply in the event that any nation was charged with having violated the international agreement not to develop or use atomic energy for destructive purposes.

I may say that the proposals made by the United States accord very closely with the views of the Government of Canada, and of many other nations in the Western World, as to how atomic energy might be brought under control. On the other hand, the Soviet Government put forward a plan which differed fundamentally. It proposed the immediate outlawing of the atomic bomb and the destruction of all existing stocks of atomic weapons within a three month period. To this end the Soviet delegate tabled a draft convention which, he said, should be negotiated forthwith as the first step towards the establishment of a system of international control.