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FIRST COMMITTEE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SEVEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 17 October 1955, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Sir Leslie MUNRO (New Zealand)

Peaceful uses of atomic energy [18] (continued)

(a) The International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy: report of the Secretary-General

(b) Progress in developing international co-operation for the peaceful uses of atomic energy: reports of Governments.

Statements were made by:

The Secretary-General
Mr. Kiselyov (Byelorussian SSR)
Mr. Ramadan (Egypt)
Mr. Thors (Iceland)
Mr. Urrutia (Colombia)

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PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY [Agenda item 18] (continued)

(a) THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

(b) PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR THE PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY: REPORTS OF GOVERNMENTS

The CHAIRMAN: The Secretary-General desires to make a statement to the Committee.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Last week I met with the heads of the specialized agencies in one of their regular meetings of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. At the meeting we studied, among other matters, the responsibilities of the various agencies of the United Nations family in the field of the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

Attention was devoted especially to how best to co-ordinate our activities in this field. For the information of the Committee I would, with your permission, Mr. Chairman, and in accordance with the wishes of my colleagues in the agencies, read a text which sums up the decision taken on this issue at a meeting of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. The text reads as follows:

"Many of the specialized agencies are closely concerned with different technical aspects of the question of the peaceful uses of atomic energy and participated actively in the international conference held in Geneva last August. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination has noted the Secretary-General's proposals to the General Assembly that the Advisory Committee which was set up in connexion with the international conference should be continued and be available as a consultative body for assistance on those atomic matters in which responsibilities may be entrusted to the United Nations Secretariat.

"It has also noted the proposals placed before the General Assembly by certain delegations which envisaged the calling of further scientific conferences on the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Several agencies within the United Nations family, by

(The Secretary-General)

direction of their respective governing bodies, are continuing or expanding activities designed to further the development of peaceful uses of atomic energy. These and the other agencies represented on the ACC recognize the need for full co-ordination of their present and future activities and for means by which to realize suitable liaison with the Advisory Committee.

"In order to promote the common approach and the fullest co-ordination in these matters among the organizations concerned, the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination has decided to set up a sub-committee in which the executive head of each interested agency will participate or be represented. The link between the sub-committee of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee would be provided by the Secretary-General as Chairman of both Committees, and it is assumed that arrangements will be agreed upon giving the specialized agencies, through their representatives on the sub-committee, opportunity to present their views to the Advisory Committee. The sub-committee will further help to co-ordinate the activities of the various members of the United Nations family of organizations in respect of other questions which may arise in this field on which they have a contribution to make."

(The Secretary-General)

In its considerations, the First Committee may wish to take note of the arrangement thus agreed upon in order to guarantee uniform planning and action among the organizations which are members of the United Nations family.

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to thank the Secretary-General. I am sure the Committee will wish to take note of what he has said and to take his statement into consideration.

Mr. KISELYOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): In the course of the examination of the question of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, the representatives of many States pointed out that the Geneva Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy made a valuable contribution to further progress in science and technology and had great significance with respect to the strengthening of peace and the relaxation of international tension. The prominent scientists and engineers of many of the countries of the world who met at the Conference exchanged the experience of their work in the most important fields of contemporary science related to the peaceful utilization of atomic energy. This for the first time was done in a friendly and open way.

Although the Conference was purely scientific in character, its significance goes far beyond the framework of the ordinary conference of scientists or the ordinary scientific congress. The vast international importance of this Conference resides, first of all, in the fact that its convening met the just demands of the people of the world who were eager to make sure that the titanic forces of the atom, awakened from their slumber by human reason, should be put at the service not of the destruction but of the welfare of mankind.

The great value attached by the Government of the USSR to the Geneva Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy was expressed in telegrams sent by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Nikolai Bulganin, to the President of the Conference, Mr. Homi Bhabha. On the occasion of the adjournment of the Conference, the telegram of Mr. Bulganin had this to say:

"This Conference will doubtless serve the cause of peace and will contribute to the further relaxation of international tension."

(Mr. Kiselyov, Byelorussian SSR)

No similar international conference of scientists has ever occurred in history. It has never been matched either in its character or in its scope. The Conference, as you know, heard numerous reports and papers presented by scientists and engineers from many countries of the world on questions related to the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

The atmosphere which prevailed at the Conference was one of free and creative discussion, which doubtless will enhance the scientific contacts between the various countries. This fact will play an important role in combining the efforts of scientists throughout the world for the solution of the human problems which the impending atomic era places on the agenda of all of mankind.

Along with scientists from the United States, Great Britain, France, India, Canada, Poland, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Denmark and many other countries, scientists from the Soviet Union, the Byelorussian SSR and the Ukranian SSR took an active part in the proceedings of the Conference.

(Mr. Kiselyov, Byelorussian SSR)

As the head of the Soviet Union delegation, Mr. Kuznetsov, has very aptly pointed out, Soviet scientists made a substantial contribution to the conference proceedings. They presented more than one hundred scientific papers setting forth theoretical foundations of the new science and the vast experience of the utilization of atomic energy in the Soviet Union in various branches of the economy, in science, technology, biology and medicine.

These papers stirred great interest among other scientists and among broad circles throughout the world. The Soviet scientist, V.I. Wexler, solved one of the most important problems of contemporary nuclear physics, namely, the production of elementary particles of high energy. Professor Wexler's work has made it possible to expand almost without limit the degree of the utilization of cyclical resonance accelerators so as to increase by a factor of thousands of times the energy of the particles that are speeded up in cyclotrons.

Thanks to the discovery of the Soviet scientists, a new and rapid development has occurred in the technology of accelerators. A vast number of new devices has become known. There is the synchrotron for electronic acceleration, the phasotron and the synchro-phasotron for the acceleration of heavy particles. In the Soviet Union, the building of the world's largest synchro-phasotron is nearing completion. This is indeed a tremendous engineering device. Its magnet alone weighs 36,000 tons. Its electric power consumption is one fourth of the electric power production of the vast electric power stations at Dneper. In it protons are accelerated within 3.3 seconds, having completed over this time millions of revolutions in their orbit and having travelled a path two and a half times greater than the distance between the earth and the moon. The protons at the end of that process reach an energy of ten billion electron volts.

In his lecture which was read at the conference, Professor Wexler also told of work being conducted in the Soviet Union for the building of new types of accelerators with more powerful focussing factors, where even higher energy factors will be achieved.

In conditions where agriculture is mechanized on a large scale and where vast areas of virgin lands are being put under the plough in the Soviet Union, recent discoveries in the field of agro-biological science, and especially the utilization by that science of the science of the atomic nucleus, are of great importance.

(Mr. Kiselyov, Byelorussian SSR)

The problem was discussed in the paper of the Soviet scientist, academician A.L. Kursanov, who outlined the valuable experience of Soviet scientists and agronomists in the utilization of radioactive isotopes in agriculture. The use of isotopes in the study of the assimilability of fertilizers by plants, has made it possible easily and accurately to solve so important a question for agriculture as the rational placing of fertilizers in the ground. This can be used for the study of the root system of plants, which is necessary in determining the correct feeding of plants in accordance with local conditions.

In the Byelorussian SSR, as in other republics of the Soviet Union, the most recent achievements in the field of the utilization of atomic energy for peaceful purposes are being introduced on a broad and increasing scale in production, agriculture, medicine, and so on. Radioisotopes are being used on a wide scale in research work. Byelorussian scientists addressed the conference at Geneva and presented papers on their work in the fields of biology and medicine and on the utilization of radioisotopes in those fields.

The President of the Academy of Science of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, V.F. Kuprevich, who was chairman of one of the meetings of the session on biology and medicine, pointed out in his introductory remarks that radioisotopes had made it possible to ascertain that oxygen released in photosynthesis by plants is formed from the molecules of water, and not from carbon dioxide as previously believed. V.F. Kuprevich stressed that the time has come to set up some new theories of plant nutrition and to ascertain the essence of the process of synthesis of living substances. The progress of science is determined not only by the accumulation of facts, but also by new ideas and new theories. He pointed out in particular the abundance of new investigations that have been started by the ideas and theories of the great British naturalist, Darwin, and by the Russian scientist of genius, Pavlov.

Professor T.N. Godnev, a member of the Academy of Science of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, presented a paper on the utilization of the radioisotope of carbon for the study of the biosynthesis of chlorophyll. The paper pointed out that the chlorophyll in the green leaves of plants does not remain invariant, but is constantly being created and is constantly decaying. The speed of the processes of decay and restoration of the plants depends on the physiological state of the

(Mr. Kisyelov, Byelorussian SSR)

cell and of the whole plant. The results of this research are of great significanae for ascertaining the essence of the process of photosynthesis.

Professor O.K. Kedrov-Zikhman, a member of the Academy of Science of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, presented a report on the role of the radioactive isotope of cobalt in studying the influence of cobalt as a micro-element in plants' nutrition. If a correct dose of radio-cobalt is used, its radiations can exert an additional favourable effect on growth, on development and on crop capacities for various plants.

Professor A.J. Prokopchuk,, a member of the Academy of Science of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, has been using radioisotopes in therapy for a number of years. Medicine has for a long time been fighting many extremely grave diseases for which roentgen radiation and various other devices did not give the desired results. Only tracer atoms have opened the way to new and more effective methods of therapy.

In the clinic of the Minsk Medical Institute, there are many cases on record where, after the use of radioactive phosphorus, the source of various diseases disappeared completely. Good results were also obtained in the radiotherapy of eczema, of cancerous tumours and of various other skin diseases.

In the discussion of one of the reports, Professor A.N. Sevchenko, a member of the Academy of Science of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, told of the work of a group of Soviet specialists on methods of measuring the intensity of radioactive radiations.

(Mr. Kiselyov, Byelorussian SSR)

Scientific workers of Byelorussian scientific institutions have conducted research which indicates that atomic energy is being used for peaceful purposes in the Byelorussian SSR on an expanding scale. The work of Soviet scientists in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, according to reactions in foreign newspapers and radio broadcasts, has been praised very highly; their work at the Conference was also praised. The Soviet scientists for their part have treated the scientific work of their foreign colleagues with great respect and attention. After the Conference, a statement of Soviet scientists was published, and it gave the following high appraisal of the results of the Geneva Conference:

> "The work of the Conference will constitute a great and important contribution to the development of large-scale scientific co-operation in the utilization of the great scientific discoveries of our time, not for purposes of war and destruction, but for constructive purposes, for the well-being of mankind and of civilization."

An equally high appraisal of this Conference was given by scientists of other countries, and I shall quote some of them. For example, the French High Commissioner for Atomic Energy, and Vice-President of the Geneva Conference, Mr. Perrin, stated:

> "The Geneva Conference has been a great success. Its convening coincided with the general improvement of the international situation. The Geneva Conference has proved to be an important factor for the further relaxation of international tension and for further progress in the utilization of atomic energy for peaceful ends. The general result has been the strengthening of the cause of universal peace."

The prominent American scientist, Professor Ernest Lawrence, said:

> "I am enthusiastic about the remarkable work done in Russia in the peaceful utilization of atomic energy. I was particularly impressed by the Wexler report" -- that was the report which I discussed a few moments ago -- "and by his statement to the effect that in Russia they are building the world's largest accelerator of charged particles, a synchro-phasotron. This is a new contribution to the cause of the further development of nuclear physics."

(Mr. Kiselyov, Byelorussian SSR)

The prominent Danish scientist and outstanding physicist, Niels Bohr, offered the following appraisal of the Geneva Conference:

> "The Geneva Conference has been an extraordinary experiment. What took place here was a lively and free exchange of scientific information and the establishment of international co-operation between scientists. This also is an example which should be followed in the building of relations between nations as well, and I hope that co-operation between scientists will continue."

These statements confirm the desire of scientists of all countries to utilize the power of the nucleus for peaceful ends in the interests of mankind at large. It would be difficult to exaggerate the great significance of the peaceful uses of atomic energy for all countries, especially for the under-developed countries. For various reasons per capita energy consumption in under-developed countries is still lagging; it has remained at a very low level. But we may state with confidence that low per capita energy consumption in the under-developed countries is one of the main reasons for their economic backwardness, for in our times technological progress is inconceivable without a sufficient quantity of electric power for the production of the means of production and for the production of objects of consumption.

At the Geneva Conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy, it was noted that as of 1950, out of the aggregate world electric power resources of 230,000,000 kilowatts, the share of the under-developed countries was only 16.6 million kilowatts, or 7.3 per cent, whereas Latin America and Asia, excluding Japan, had a share of only 7 million kilowatts; and the remaining 2.5 kilowatts was the share of Africa, excluding the Union of South Africa and Oceania (A/Conf.8/P/893). It should also be noted that production of electric power in under-developed countries is usually concentrated in large cities whereas other areas, in which the majority of the population resides, have little or no electric power resources at all. Electric power transmission from large cities to the remoter regions of these countries is made difficult on account of the low level of development of technology. Under the circumstances, the development of a vast network of electric power installations of different capacities, using atomic energy as the energy source, could play a decisive role in the economic and social progress of the under-developed countries.

(Mr. Kiselyov, Byelorussian SSR)

The significance of this great discovery of atomic energy and its utilization for peaceful purposes for under-developed countries will become even more evident, even more manifest, if we take account of the fact that in these countries the majority of the people of the world reside. Late data made available by the Secretariat of the United Nations show that the population of Asia now is 1,323,000,000 human beings; Africa, 216,000,000; South America 121 million and Oceania, 14.2 million.

These figures make it clear that the population of economically under-developed areas of the world is 1,674,300,000 out of a total population of the globe of 2,528,300,000. In other words, the population of the under-developed countries is 66.2 per cent of the world's population. It may be inferred that the utilization of atomic energy for peaceful ends would make it possible for under-developed countries to obtain a sufficient quantity of electric energy, which is absolutely essential if they are to make further economic and social strides.

Industrialized countries, which have highly developed industry and which have accumulated vast experience in the production of atomic energy, could in the opinion of my delegation extend scientific and technical assistance to the under-developed countries in the field of the peaceful uses of atomic energy and likewise in the building of electric power stations which would use atomic raw materials as the energy source.

It goes without saying that the vast potentialities inherent in the use of atomic energy for the well-being of mankind could only be realized if the danger of the use of this tremendous power for purposes of destruction were totally removed, if the possibility that this power source would be used for the unleashing of destructive atomic war would become completely out of the question.

(Mr. Kiselyov, Byelorussian SSR)

The strides made in the peaceful harnessing of atomic energy, as demonstrated at the Geneva Conference, make it even more urgent to solve the problem of the prohibition of atomic, hydrogen and other weapons of mass destruction. The gigantic power resources of the nucleus must be harnessed in the interests of peace and construction -- not for purposes of war and destruction. The peoples of the world are clamouring for a ban to be placed on the atomic bomb. They demand that the inexhaustible possibilities of atomic energy be used for peaceful and creative purposes, for the wellbeing of all mankind. The prohibition of the use and production of the atomic weapon and its elimination from the armaments of States would foster the broad development of international co-operation for the peaceful utilization of atomic energy, and would also contribute to a relaxation of international tension and the creation of an atmosphere of international trust.

The Geneva Conference has noted new prospects for the utilization of nuclear energy. It has also confirmed the fact that it is the desire of scientists of all countries that atomic energy should be used for peaceful purposes only and for the interests of all mankind. The fact that prominent scientists and engineers of countries of varying social and economic systems jointly examined the principal problems of the peaceful utilization of atomic energy itself exerted a favourable effect on the strengthening of international co-operation and on the cementing of mutual confidence between peoples. We cannot, however, consider it as normal that the scientists of the Chinese People's Republic and the German Democratic Republic should have been kept out of the Geneva Conference. My delegation feels very strongly that at similar international conferences scientists from all countries of the world should be able to participate without any sort of discrimination. This would only enhance the scientific authority and significance of these international scientific conferences.

I shall not in my statement dwell on the fact that the Soviet Government and Soviet scientists make no secret of their achievements in the peaceful utilization of atomic energy and have already taken a number of steps for sharing their experience with other countries. This particular topic has already been dealt with in some detail by the representative of the Soviet Union. I should like, however, to dwell briefly on the subject of the establishment of an international agency for the peaceful utilization of atomic energy. The delegation of the

(Mr. Kiselyov, Byelorussian SSR)

Byelorussian SSR supports the idea of the establishment of such an international agency within the framework of the United Nations, and welcomes the decision of the Soviet Government to contribute to the international fund of atomic materials to be set up under the international agency. We welcome the decision of the Soviet Government to contribute to that fund the appropriate quantities of fissionable materials as soon as agreement has been reached on the establishment of the agency. We would, however, stress the fact that any international organ established on the basis of agreement between States can perform its functions successfully only if its activities are not detrimental to the security of any State. The international agency which is contemplated should not be under the monopolistic control of any one Power or group of Powers. It will be a genuine international body only if the legitimate rights and interests of all countries participating in it are meticulously respected. This agency can perform the functions which it is intended to perform only if its competence, its terms of reference and its practical activities are made to conform strictly with the universally recognized principles of the United Nations Charter.

The delegation of the Byelorussian SSR wholeheartedly supports the proposals contained in the Soviet draft resolution with regard to the desirability of a periodic convening of conferences for exchanging information on the extensive utilization of atomic energy in various fields of science, agriculture, industry and health. The United Nations must see to it that the great mass of atomic materials produced in many countries of the world is direct into peaceful channels, and that the achievements of science in this realm serve not purposes of war and the mass extermination of human beings but purposes designed to secure the progress of the economy and culture of peoples. The cementing of international co-operation in the field of the peaceful utilization of atomic energy will contribute to the creation of an atmosphere of confidence and mutual understanding between countries which is so essential a prerequisite for the settlement of outstanding problems.

The Byelorussian delegation warmly welcomes the expansion and development of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy in the interests of peace and friendship among nations. For its part, my delegation will contribute in all possible ways to all efforts designed to attain these generous and lofty objectives.

The CHAIRMAN: I would remind the Committee that the list of speakers will be closed at six o' clock this evening.

Mr. RAMADAN (Egypt) (interpretation from French): At the outset of a debate relating to a question which is vital for the progress of humanity, my delegation has shared with so many other countries throughout the world the enthusiasm with which we are welcoming the birth of a new era in scientific discovery. The utilization of atomic energy for peaceful purposes goes beyond all dreams and is more than justifying all hopes by opening up a period where it will be possible to intensify production and to increase the wellbeing of humanity.

Indeed, this event is the most striking proof of what human genius can accomplish when it is directed towards doing good. The forces of nature are captured, transformed and, henceforth, will be used to open the way to brilliant prospects and enable humanity to achieve universal prosperity. The great adventure of contemporary physics, which was the definition given to this event, has given rise to great enthusiasm all over the world, and has led to the hope that we shall be able to transform the situation and provide humanity with a happier fate.

In placing this problem on the universal level, where it belongs, one is led to the conclusion that the question of the utilization of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, because of its characteristics and the extent of its repercussions, cannot be confined to an individual State or group of States, or to any kind of group of that sort. This question goes beyond the narrow framework of frontiers and becomes the common property of all peoples of the world -- of all human beings, without distinction of nationality, race or colour. This is one case where the great discoveries of contemporary science can be made to serve humanity, and consequently we can envisage the future with confidence.

Three dates must be remembered: 8 December 1953, 4 December 1954 and 8 August 1955. The first date, 8 December 1953, is that whereon the President of the United States, with his high-minded ideas and with breathtaking vision of the future, together with the noble humanism which always characterizes his initiatives, solemnly announced to the General Assembly of the United Nations that the efforts of the scientists and specialists in atomic energy should be directed thenceforth towards the peaceful utilization of that great source of energy for the welfare of humanity.

(Mr. Ramadan, Egypt)

What had been an instrument of terror was to become a source of benefit to the human race.

On 4 December 1954, the General Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution which has formed the basis of our present discussions.

The initiative of the President of the United States has had the most far-reaching consequences and the most fortunate effects. The veil of mystery shrouding the great discovery was raised, and the world was able to follow, with amazement, the joint efforts of scientists and technicians who, in a spirit of healthy competition, were furthering the development of the peaceful applications of atomic energy.

The Geneva Conference, which began on 8 August 1955, will go down in the history of our times for more than one reason. It was the most valid illustration of the spirit of co-operation and international collaboration. Science, which thereby clearly regained its international character, will inscribe this Conference in its annals.

My delegation fully associates itself with the tribute which has been paid to the Secretary-General, the members of the Advisory Committee and the secretariat of the Conference, whose most laudable endeavours were responsible for the Conference's success. A similar tribute must be paid to the President of the Conference, Mr. Bhabha, who was good enough to give this Committee in his very enlightening statement some very precious scientific and technical information.

As a layman, I shall naturally not comment on the scientific achievements which were reported on during the Geneva Conference. Nevertheless, we were all very much impressed by our visits to the various exhibitions submitted by States represented at the Conference, exhibitions demonstrating the many aspects of the peaceful uses of atomic energy: reactors, research equipment, showing us the possibilities and the applications of atomic energy for large-scale industrial enterprises, the employment of isotopes in biology, medicine and agriculture, and so forth. Thus, we were able to become familiar with these scientific applications, which became accessible to us through the presentation of documentary films.

(Mr. Ramadan, Egypt)

My delegation strongly supports all the proposals aimed at the holding of similar conferences in the near future. We hope that atomic science will become more and more familiar to everyone through the dissemination of documents and, above all, the presentation of documentary films throughout the world.

Before speaking of Egypt's participation in the work of the Geneva Conference, I should like to point out that many lessons are to be learned from a study of the Conference as a whole. The most important of those lessons is, in our opinion, that of the fruitful co-operation among all the scientists of the world. Geneva effectively demonstrated that the clouds of doubt may be dispelled when men of good will -- scientists, technicians -- attack the mysteries of nature with determination, in an effort to draw from them benefits for the human race. Science has no frontiers. The participation of scientists from all over the world, the friendly competition represented by a multitude of documents, memoranda and scientific studies submitted to the Conference, have had their results. The exchange of opinions and the comparison of scientific discoveries stimulated the minds of those attending the Conference and ensured that there would be further development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The scientific and technical problems which were jointly discussed proved once again that atomic energy cannot be the prerogative of any one State. They clearly showed that no monopoly is possible in atomic questions.

The second lesson -- to which attention was drawn by the President of the Conference -- is the fact that almost all the scientists participating in the Conference agreed that only certain methods could be used to develop future scientific research. The representatives of the great Powers set forth during their learned statements the essential information about the industrial potential and the many uses of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. These statements demonstrated on more than one score the stage of advancement which those countries have reached in the exploitation of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

The under-developed countries may perhaps be inclined to hesitate about presenting a report of the work which their scientists have done in this field. But I think it is obvious that the point of view of these under-developed countries must be taken into account. Their observations should be carefully considered.

(Mr. Ramadan, Egypt)

Indeed, the peaceful uses of atomic energy, the plan to establish an international agency, the bilateral agreements concluded between the countries most advanced, industrially, in the exploitation of atomic energy and other resources: all these elements lead us to conclude that the great Powers must solicit and take account of the observations of countries which nature has not so far endowed with atomic materials.

Egypt, which participated in the Geneva Conference, has for a long time been giving evidence of the interest which it attaches to problems involving atomic energy. Egypt's interest is shown by the fact, among others, that our most ancient history notes the presence of scientists and of persons doing research in the arts and sciences.

In this connexion, my delegation would draw attention to the fact that Egypt has many laboratories and institutes of research and experimentation which have at their disposal substantial funds for encouraging the development of research. Missions are sent to all parts of the world -- the United States, Europe -- to perfect themselves in the new science which is to revolutionize the industrial world. A national committee of atomic energy has been established in Egypt. At its head is a Cabinet Minister, and it is made up of five professors of Egyptian universities. Its powers are similar to those of other committees in the same field. Its members are in touch with all research involving the peaceful uses of atomic energy. A detailed programme has been elaborated by this committee, taking into account the circumstances and possibilities of the country. The first task of the members of the Committee has been to engage in what might be called prospecting, in order to evaluate the raw materials which are to be found in the country and which constitute the basis of research in the atomic sphere. The first experiments carried out revealed the existence of radioactive matter in the Egyptian soil.

(Mr. Ramadan, Egypt)

Proceeding by stages, the committee came to the conclusion that a reactor could be used to the fullest extent only if personnel were given the necessary training to work with it. Thus, a nucleus of technicians, of sufficiently trained personnel, must be established in the under-developed countries before a reactor should be purchased. It is important that the countries which are in the same circumstances as Egypt should proceed by stages to prepare themselves for the acquisition of a reactor. Personnel and technicians capable of operating the reactor must be trained, even if it is a question essentially of a research reactor.

(Mr. Ramadan, Egypt)

For all these reasons, the national atomic energy committee of Egypt prepared a five-year plan for the training of Egyptian technicians, who in the future will share their experience with their colleagues. The committee decided to send fifty experts in atomic energy to other countries: these were specialists in higher mathematics, theoretical physics, experimental physics, basic chemistry, the chemistry of radioactive materials and the geology of atomic residues. The committee also decided to send to foreign countries 100 specialists in experimental sciences which have direct relation to the production of atomic energy so that they would familiarize themselves with the latest electronic and atomic instruments and the utilization of radioactive isotopes for medical purposes.

Furthermore, the Egyptian atomic energy committee has approved a project involving 700,000 Egyptian pounds, equivalent to $2,000,000, to purchase scientific apparatus for the setting up of principal and secondary laboratories so as to be ready to welcome the specialists when they return from their studies. The most important of these acquisitions was a small reactor imported as a research reactor, because the Egyptian authorities felt it timely to set up a research reactor which would fulfil the needs of Egypt. The advantages of this type of reactor are as follows: the production of radioactive isotopes which might be used in medicine, in chemistry, in biology, in agriculture and in all the other similar fields of research.

We have also considered the purchase of scientific books, and we also subscribe to magazines and periodicals. The library that was offered by the Government of the United States to Egypt will serve for the setting up of a scientific library which will be at the disposition of Egyptian specialists. On this point, my delegation wishes to express its warm appreciation for the spirit of co-operation that has been shown by the Government of the United States in making this offer.

The Egyptian Government has also purchased from the United States the instruments and equipment that were needed for the setting up of a research centre dealing with radioactive isotopes. A North American expert and four Egyptian specialists, who had received the necessary training in the institutes and hospitals of the United States, participated in the setting up of this centre.

(Mr. Ramadan, Egypt)

I have given a brief outline of the plan set up by the national atomic energy committee of Egypt in its preparatory phase. We are confident that this plan will be developed in accordance with the general feeling and in accordance with the importance attached by the Egyptian Government to this point in giving it priority over many other projects. The main objective is to follow very closely the scientific evolution and to adapt ourselves to the needs of this new era inaugurated by the greatest discovery in history.

The interest shown by the Government of Egypt in the peaceful uses of atomic energy becomes even more obvious when we consider the possibility of utilizing this energy for the production of electrical energy, especially since Egypt is putting into execution a number of projects setting up hydroelectric plants in the south of the country.

Other applications are also envisaged for the industrialization of the country and for the implementation of a number of economic projects which will raise the standard of living of the population. This raising of the standard of living will be most obvious during the period from 1965 to 1975. As a consequence of the raising of the standard of living, the consumption of electrical energy, at present 60 Kwh per capita per annum, will rise to 280 in 1965 and to 425 Kwh per capita per annum in 1975. It is obvious today that in Egypt, despite the utilization of conventional raw materials for the production of electrical energy, the need for a greater supply of electrical energy will be most felt between the years 1963 and 1975 and that we shall require supplementary electrical energy of at least 500 MW.

That is why the Egyptian authorities will have to choose between two different types of electrical plants: either atomic or thermal.

Egypt, which has tremendous desert areas, will obviously be able to benefit greatly from any system taking advantage of solar energy. Experiments carried out in the distillation of water give a result of three litres of water distilled for each square metre per day; but, according to the way we work it out, we shall be able to increase this amount to five litres. Other experiments have been carried out in the utilization of solar energy at the Heliopolis desert institute. This institute is taking up this entire problem as well as all the problems linked with it.

(Mr. Ramadan, Egypt)

All these different elements lead the Egyptian Government to attach paramount importance to anything that refers to atomic energy. Therefore Egypt was extremely interested and concerned in following all the steps of the Geneva conference. A delegation composed of eighteen professors and specialists in sciences relating to atomic energy accompanied the members of the Egyptian atomic energy committee and took effective part in the work of the conference.

Egypt is among the very rare smaller countries that submitted memoranda and documents to the Geneva conference. One of the Egyptian scientists took part in the general discussion on scientific documents submitted by other countries. One of the documents submitted by the Egyptian delegation was entitled "Power and heat requirements in the Republic of Egypt". Another professor who spent some time at the Argonne National Laboratory presented a document on a subject that must concern all those who are interested in the peaceful uses of atomic energy: "Chemical radiation protection".

Furthermore, following the Geneva conference, Egypt called the second Arab scientific congress last September. The first congress was held during one week of September 1953. A number of Arab States, as well as other countries, participated in the second congress. Representatives of other countries attended the congress as observers. Entire meetings were devoted to the problem of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, especially with regard to countries that had taken part in the work of the previous conference.

All that I have stated shows conclusively that the Egyptian Government is and always will be extremely interested in the problem we are discussing today. Egypt will support any proposal that will lead to the convoking of international conferences similar to that at Geneva, and we also hope that seminars and researches will be conducted to cover all the different aspects of specific subjects.

To sum up, my delegation will be extremely happy to support any proposal that will bring the scientists of the world together without distinction of nationality, because these contacts will not only permit the achievement of appreciable scientific progress but they will also overcome divergencies and promote an atmosphere of relaxation of international tension which will greatly aid the strengthening of peace in the world.

(Mr. Ramadan, Egypt)

Furthermore, my delegation is happy to agree with those who have stated the need for the setting up of an international agency. Before dealing with that subject, however, I feel that a previous question must be brought up. We believe that the agency which is being considered should be based on equality between States. It is true -- and I would be the last to deny it -- that the great Powers have played a considerable role in the production of atomic energy.

We have before us in this Committee numerous draft resolutions and they contain certain elements of divergence. But my delegation is of the opinion that we are now all agreed on the basic problem itself. We are all agreed on the need to call international conferences and to hold research seminars to promote scientific knowledge in this matter. There has also been agreement with regard to the need for the setting up of an agency as soon as possible. Furthermore, we are also agreed as regards questions of detail, such as the continuation of the functioning of the Advisory Committee, which was set up pursuant to General Assembly resolution 810 (IX), and secondly, as regards the efforts of the Secretary-General.

Therefore, under these conditions, I feel that there ought to be no great difference of opinion as concerns the setting up of this agency and the link that should exist between the agency and the United Nations. There can be no disagreement on the principle. The differences in the points of view only bear on the moment when this link should be set up. Should it be decided upon in the course of our work at the present session, or should we leave it to the international agency, after it has been set up, to establish and determine this link?

My delegation is of the opinion that when agreement has been arrived at on the fact that the agency must have a link with the United Nations, there may be a common ground between those holding different views, those who speak for the setting up of a link now and those who wish to leave it to the agency to decide on the link it is to set up with the United Nations. From our point of view this aspect of the problem is of great importance because if we decide on this question here and now, we will contribute to strengthening the United Nations and also to enhancing its international prestige. There ought to be no intransigence on the part of those who wish to leave to the agency the question of the setting up of the link between it and the United Nations, because such an adamant position would mean

(Mr. Ramadan, Egypt)

that they believe that the agency, after it has been set up, might decide to have no link whatever with our Organization. Furthermore, the need to set up this link between the agency and the United Nations, as of now, would have particular importance in so far as world public opinion is concerned.

With regard to the nature of the link between this international agency and the United Nations, my delegation agrees with other delegations, such as Norway, which said that this link should be as close as possible. This does not necessarily mean that the international agency and its functioning must be subject to a political body which might at any moment hamper or paralyse its progress.

As is known, the draft statute on the formation of the agency was communicated to the different Governments. The observations of my Government will be transmitted through the usual diplomatic channels. But in the meantime my delegation feels duty bound to express its point of view. We shall not at this stage of the discussion go into details of the different essential questions that were pointed out by a number of representatives, such as that of the composition of the board of governors. But in principle we ought to avoid any discrimination between States that are represented.

It has been said that for the setting up of that governing council we should take into account the position occupied by member States in so far as geographic distribution is concerned, or that we should take into account the role that these States might play in the region where they are situated. But it does appear to us to be extremely important to set up this international agency on a true and healthy democratic basis.

At this moment, when the world is entering a period of relaxation of international tension, it would not, I think, be fitting for this agency to be set up on a basis of discrimination between great and small States. As we have pointed out before, we fully recognize the importance of the role played, and to be played, by the countries which are highly developed, in this question of atomic energy. But this does not mean that the smaller States must necessarily float like a cork on the ebb and flow of the different currents of international life.

(Mr. Ramadan, Egypt)

Dr. Bhabha, the President of the Geneva Conference, in the course of his statement, drew the following conclusion, and I feel that it is extremely important. He said that

"no nation or group of nations has a monopoly of the atomic fuels, uranium and thorium, and is therefore in a position to impose its terms on others". (A/C.1/PV.760, p. 13-15)

Before concluding, I should like to refer to a general principle which is contained in the joint draft resolution, A/C.1/L.130, submitted by India, Yugoslavia, Burma, Syria and Egypt. When the great Powers are called upon to decide on the final form of the international agency, we will have to take into account the observations submitted by different countries in this Committee. Therefore, my delegation feels that the documents of this Committee should be carefully studied by those who are going to decide on the final form of the statute. We believe that the spirit of co-operation has obtained in our debates and that the desire for sincere co-operation on the part of the great Powers will prevail.

The representative of the United States, in his statement, indicated that the position of his country was not rigid. This definitely is most encouraging and leads us to feel that our observations and views will be taken into account. Furthermore, it seems obvious that the fact that we have included this question on the agenda of the present session leads us to believe that the great Powers do want to take into account the points of view and the different opinions voiced by the nations in the course of the debate. It is these considerations that lead the Egyptian delegation to associate itself with the other sponsors of the draft resolution. My delegation is also ready to support any suggestion or observation made by other delegations, because we are met here for one purpose and that is to co-operate in a common task.

I regret that I have spoken at such great length, but in expressing the point of view of my delegation we feel that we, the smaller nations, have the right to make the points of view of our Governments fully known on matters of such great importance as this one. I wish to conclude on a note of optimism, because we are firmly convinced, and we have the hope, that our debates will result in one unanimously adopted resolution. World public opinion is following our debates carefully. We dare not disillusion it. The needs of justice and humanity must prevail over any other consideration and must be the only guide in our decisions.

Mr. THORS (Iceland): The question of the peaceful uses of atomic energy is of such paramount importance and so promising to the future of humanity that every nation is happy to associate itself with this adventure of the present and coming generations. Therefore my delegation shall venture a few brief remarks on this subject.

(Mr. Thors, Iceland)

My country, Iceland, has no great achievements in this field to report. The clear fact is that the great Powers and those countries enriched with natural resources and mineral wealth have been the pioneers in this sphere of human endeavour, experience and discovery as in so many others. This fact needs no explanation or excuse on behalf of the small nations.

Indeed, it has been gratifying and a source of great expectations to listen here to reports by the representatives of so many countries, particularly the United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union and Canada, each of whom could tell us of great progress and wonderful achievements in the development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes in their countries. The representative of the United States, Mr. Pastore, had a most remarkable account to give. Of course we all remember that it was through the initiative of the United States that international co-operation for the peaceful utilization of atomic energy became a reality. President Eisenhower's speech of 8 December 1953 will stand with golden letters on the pages of history.

The first result of that speech was the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy held in Geneva last summer. The next step will be the establishment of an international atomic energy agency to ensure the future co-operation of all nations for this mighty purpose.

Mr. Pastore told us that the United States had already concluded agreements concerning research reactors with twenty-four States, was offering such reactors as well as the necessary atomic fuel to many countries and giving these countries the means of technical training. Furthermore, he stated that heavy water and uranium have been supplied to various countries; isotopes were being made available to fifty-one countries; and technical training programmes were being developed and foreign students in this field being admitted to the United States in increasing numbers. Doctors and surgeons from twelve countries were studying in American hospitals the treatment of cancer and other diseases by use of isotopes and other means derived from atomic energy. In addition, presentations have been made to twenty-six countries of the most valuable libraries in this field.

(Mr. Thors, Iceland)

Then we were told that this was just the beginning. Certainly it is a great beginning.

The representative of the Soviet Union praised the scientific Geneva Conference and stressed the gains made by all its participants. He stated that the Conference:

> "... provided explicit evidence of the way in which the spirit of mutual understanding and co-operation, the 'spirit of Geneva', opens the road to a solution of the most important problems of our time." (A/C.1/PV.759, page 7)

He told us further that the Soviet Government makes no secret of its achievements in the field of atomic energy and that it is ready to share on a reciprocal basis its experience with other nations. The representative of the Soviet Union also told us that the atomic power station of the Academy of Science of the USSR has been working for more than a year and has generated more than 15 million kw/hours of electric power. We were also told about the achievements in the construction and operation of research reactors, technology of nuclear fuel, use of radioactive tracers in medicine and the use of isotopes in biology and agriculture. Furthermore, the Soviet representative told us his Government desired to place this great discovery of the human mind completely at the disposal of mankind.

The Soviet Union has made agreements with various friendly Governments for the exchange of training, and of men and materials for further progress in this sphere and it expresses its willingness to increase the number of States with which it could co-operate for the mutual exchange of experience and assistance. All these are signs of great progress and augur well for future developments.

The representative of the United Kingdom told us that his country is the world's largest exporter of isotopes and that the Calder Hall atomic reactor, which will be the first full-scale nuclear reactor operating in the whole world, will, towards the end of 1956, be feeding substantial quantities of power into the British power system. He also told us that tremendous increases and developments are being prepared and planned. We all know that the United Kingdom is engaged in co-operation with many countries in the

(Mr. Thors, Iceland)

exchange of knowledge, training facilities and materials. The representative of the United Kingdom had the superb message to give us that we are today laying the foundation of a completely new world.

The representative of Canada told us so many encouraging things. As we all know, Canada is always willing to participate in international co-operation, and in most cases plays the role of the donor and not the recipient. He told us that by the end of 1957 uranium production in Canada will be more than twelve times as great as it was in 1945. In his eloquent speech, the Canadian representative explained the Canadian atomic programme, which certainly merits attention from all of us. I shall not delay the work of the Committee by repeating what we have already been told. It is evident that we can learn much from the activities, experience and efforts in Canada, and much is to be gained by studying the experiments of the Canadian scientists.

It could hardly be expected that we in Iceland have any achievements similar to those of these great nations to report in this field which requires both human ingenuity and material wealth. My nation lacks the scientific manpower and financial means. Also mineral deposits have yet to be discovered in Iceland. Besides, we have been and still are mostly concerned and economically fully engaged in harnessing just a small part of the hydro-electric power of our rivers and waterfalls. Of the potential hydro-electric power of up to five million horsepower, only some 60,000 horsepower has been utilized. Yet about 80 per cent of our population are blessed with light and heat from our electrical systems. The wheels of industry are also driven by electricity to a large extent. This is the case with our fish processing plants and the refrigerating plants all around the coast. Our new fertilizer plant also benefits from recently completed hydro-electric systems, and our new cement factory will be driven by hydro-electric power.

(Mr. Thors, Iceland)

I mention this to illustrate that not all progress has had to wait for the atomic age, and I also want to emphasize what a blessing the hydroelectric power can bestow on a relatively cold and barren country. Furthermore, we have invested comparatively large amounts in harnessing the hot water and boiling steam from our geysers and hot springs. Thus, the houses of our capital, Reykjavik, are mostly warmed with hot water, which is piped from the springs some ten miles away. This enterprise means great savings in coal and fuel and the hot water and hydroelectric power constitute some of our most valuable assets, and in the countryside, farms and schools are kept warm with the hot water right from the back yard. For a thousand years these resources remained unused. Science finally revealed this hidden saving and gave us the skill to put it into our service.

Science has been the treasure of the peoples, and the scientist will find the keys to the vaults of the unrevealed wealth of the world, which will lead to the road of prosperity, health and happiness. Science knows no nationality or boundaries, no more than do the sweet tunes of music. Its discoveries may be made by a single genius or a few leaders mentally and materially brilliantly equipped, but sooner or later its ripe fruits will fall to earth and become the property of all. No scientific discovery has, perhaps at any time through the ages, given rise to greater optimism and aroused such fantastic expectations of unimaginable benefits to mankind as the discovery connected with the fission of atomic nucleus and the production of atomic energy. It has therefore been with a mixed feeling of curiosity and of hope and bright perspectives that my people, and in particular our experts in related fields of technology and science, have followed the developments in the sphere of atomic energy.

It was a source of gratification and gratitude, as well as of admiration, when my people heard of President Eisenhower's historical speech, which event many of us here assembled witnessed with great satisfaction. It has been most encouraging that deeds have followed words. When invitations were issued to the Geneva conference which took place this summer, we were somewhat hesitant whether we should participate. It was regrettably clear to us that at such a highly technical and scientific conference in this hitherto almost secret and mysterious field, which had been open almost exclusively to the great Powers with unlimited resources of qualified men and financial means, we could have nothing to offer.

(Mr. Thors, Iceland)

However, on closer consideration we thought that certainly there was much that we could learn. We therefore decided to send a small delegation consisting of only three members to the atomic conference. Two of them were just young men desiring and beginning to become experts in this field. They had an excellent educational background after many years of extensive study. One of them had for years studied atomic energy at Princeton University; the other was a specialist in physics after years of study and work at the Universities of Cambridge and Princeton. I mention this because I had the opportunity to meet those young men during my recent visit to my country and also to read their report to my Government and in the papers. They could hardly find words to express what an extraordinary, durable, and invaluable educational treat this was to them. It was an adventure in education, almost unbelievable, and certainly a basic advantage never to be forgotten. At Geneva, scientists, inventors and scholars opened their books of knowledge and their minds of genius and literally threw the fruits of their long, selfless labours and sacrifices to everyone who was endowed with the gift of appreciating the sweetness of these previously so jealously guarded fruits. There was no forbidden fruit of knowledge at this peaceful and progressive conference in Geneva. Everything was free and open. Possibly there were signs of the healthy and beneficial competition about who had most to give to others. A whole ocean of human knowledge lay open wide for everyone to dive into -- a mountain of scientific experience, built up by experiment after experiment, an almost unsurmountable accumulation of pieces of progressive work and creative ability collected by human genius, patience and perseverence. We can easily appreciate how mentally invigorating such excursions into the realms of knowledge must have been.

So much praise has already been expressed by all the speakers about the preparation of the Geneva Conference, its work and its results, that I shall add nothing further. I shall just say that I concur. Its results have been best summarized by the emminent President of the Conference, Dr. Bhabha, when he said, "It is generally recognized that the conference succeeded beyond all hopes and expectations".

(Mr. Thors, Iceland)

What more praise can we find? And let us not forget that this was a conference of seventy-three different nations, representing all social and political systems of our modern controversial world, in a sphere that had been closed off with thick curtains of secrecy and suspicion. Now this secrecy has been split, just as the atom has been split, and the power of the atom has become the prospective property of every nation of the globe. The International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy was a success and a most important milestone on the road of the progress of mankind. From there we now march onward.

The consensus in this Committee seems to be that the work of the conference should be continued and that it should be followed up with another international conference. Whether the next conference takes place in two years or three years is of minor importance. Time is needed to study the 2,200 papers submitted to the conference and to undertake further study and scrutinization of the information and suggestions presented. It is our opinion that no definite time-limit should now be set. Things and times change, and let us not forget that progress sometimes travels quickly and great discoveries often happily come unheralded and unexpected to all except the readers of the stars and the geniuses of atomic energy.

(Mr. Thors, Iceland)

Furthermore, the atomic conferences of the future need not all follow the pattern of this first atomic conference at Geneva. We are apt to think that the peaceful uses of atomic energy mainly concern the creation and the utilization of power. But we also know, or rather we here are told, of the wonders atomic power can achieve in the fields of medicine and agriculture. It may therefore be found feasible to hold various smaller specified conferences on such subjects.

The United Nations, under the leadership of our distinguished and able Secretary-General, should continue its supervision and responsibility in this matter. The next atomic conference should be under the auspices of the United Nations. In the necessary interval of time, it is not only advisable but necessary that the Advisory Committee be continued to assist and advise the Secretary-General, in its present composition and under its existing rules of procedure and as a consultative body, in the manner and form proposed by the Secretary-General in his report on the Geneva Conference (A/2967, paragraph 19). The Advisory Committee has been widely praised for its work in preparing the Conference. The illustrious scientists of the Advisory Committee have now gained experience in organizing and directing an international conference. Their skill in atomic energy is acknowledged all over the world, by all competent persons. In a new and more specific and extended capacity, the Advisory Committee would be of great assistance and utmost value to the Secretary-General in his tremendous task and overwhelming duties and responsibilities.

I now come to the question of the proposed international atomic agency. The draft statutes for such an agency, which was originally suggested by President Eisenhower in his memorable speech before the United Nations, have been circulated to all Member States. These statutes are now under consideration by the various Governments, and their comments should be awaited. I for my part am in no position to discuss these suggestions at this stage. However, I feel that substantive deliberations and debate here of the drafted regulations might be a guide when the statutes are given their final form. No final decision in this respect can, however, be expected at this session. It is our opinion that the agency should be closely, yet freely, connected with the United Nations. Science is progressive and positive, and its findings should not be made subject to political manoeuvres.

(Mr. Thors, Iceland)

Finally, I want to stress just one point which, in my mind, is of the utmost importance. Other speakers have mentioned this before, but that does not deter me. From the outset, I had this idea primarily in mind. I refer to the manner in which this Committee intends to handle this great question before us. Four draft resolutions and some amendments have been submitted to us, and more may be coming. I know that we are actually in the midst of a general debate on this item, and I shall therefore cautiously avoid discussing the resolutions in detail. What I am most anxious to do is to remind the Committee that on 4 December 1954, we unanimously voted for the resolution that created and made possible the Geneva Atomic Peace Conference. All the previous speakers have very eloquently praised the success of this conference. But, may I ask you: what made this conference possible and what was it that ensured its fortunate success? That we all know. Only the unanimity of the United Nations could have made the conference a reality, and in the first instance could have had it summoned at all as a world-wide conference. Furthermore, this unanimity ensured the success of the conference. Only through the meeting of minds of all of you were the fruits of knowledge and progress given to all of us and the road of prosperity opened as a thoroughfare to all peoples. Let us not forget this. Let us not lose what we already have gained. It has been said here in this debate that given knowledge cannot be retrieved. That is true. But is it not equally clear that gained knowledge can be used for different purposes, either for the blessings of mankind or for its destruction? Let us bear that in mind and continue, all of us together, as a truly United Nations towards the goal already set by the Geneva Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. The atom has two sides. Let us be careful and take the safe, yet adventurous, road into the Eden of prosperity together.

Last year, when the question of atomic energy was before this Committee, there were two conflicting resolutions presented, and many relevant amendments were subsequently submitted by various nations. It all resulted in just one resolution unanimously adopted. May that be of guidance to us here and now.

(Mr. Thors, Iceland)

I had wanted to make these remarks in order to make heard the voice of a small nation which is poor in resources, but rich in aspirations and in its yearning for knowledge. I wanted to express our gratitude to the great nations which had so much to give and which gave it so generously. By sharing the wealth of this earth and the fruits of human ingenuity, we shall also share the peace on earth and its blessings.

Mr. URRUTIA (Colombia)(interpretation from Spanish): The discussions that we have heard here and the draft resolutions before us prove that this is perhaps one of the very few subjects on which there appears to be agreement on the basis of the problem itself. Ambassador Belaunde, in his usual completely masterful way, analysed the agreement that seems to be unanimous in recognizing the success of the Geneva Conference and the need for holding a further conference in the near future, the need to keep the committee in existence, to renew the terms of reference of that committee and for the Secretary-General to set up a universal agency, and to link that agency with the United Nations.

There only seems to be divergencies with regard to certain problems, which some representatives have qualified as being of fundamental importance. As far as we are concerned, these problems seem to be much less difficult of solution than other graver problems upon which in time we have managed to agree. This was stressed a few moments ago by the representative of Egypt.

(Mr. Urrutia, Colombia)

The representative of India proposed that we should discuss the two problems separately -- the problem of the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, and the problem of progress in the development of international co-operation for such peaceful uses. Perhaps we did not at first fully understand his suggestion, because very often in the past we have discussed similar items together, but we feel that we should acknowledge today that this debate has proved that Mr. Menon was entirely right and that what we ought to do this year is to divide these two problems and to deal completely only with the aspect relating to the Geneva Conference, postponing the study of the setting up of an international agency. From the very title of this latter item we can see that what we shall have to do, among other things, is to study the reports of Governments, and we can hardly do that when the draft statutes were sent to the different Foreign Ministers only a few weeks ago. To discuss this proposal and the conditions under which an international agency should be set up before receiving the observations which have been requested from Governments -- of which there are no fewer than eighty-four -- would be premature, and, as we say in the Latin American countries, one should not put a saddle on the horse until one has caught him.

The Soviet Union subordinates the setting up of this agency to two conditions. One is the prohibition of the atomic weapon, and the other is control of the international agency by the United Nations. The prohibition of the atomic weapon is a matter which is being discussed by the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission, and in a few days the Foreign Ministers of the great Powers will be meeting in Geneva to deal with that subject among others. A number of delegations have held that, because of the ease with which peace industry can be turned into war industry, we should not even endeavour to think of encouraging the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy until we have guaranteed the prohibition of atomic weapons. Other delegations hold the opposite view, namely, that this problem has nothing whatever to do with disarmament. The United States of America, in a memorandum of 5 July 1954, explained that it was to a large extent to avoid the dangers of an arms race between the larger Powers that some disarmament system should be envisaged, the security of which would depend on the acceptance of the American proposals on

the peaceful uses of the atom. Therefore, no one has denied that there may be a relationship between the two problems, and the proposals submitted by President Eisenhower will undoubtedly contribute to solve the problems of disarmament when we channel the utilization of atomic energy into the field of peaceful purposes. Nevertheless, they are different subjects, and I think it would be an error to make one subordinate to the other.

In the view of my delegation we should, for the time being, leave the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the Disarmament Commission to take up these problems of disarmament and the prohibition of the use of atomic weapons, and not make the prohibition itself conditional upon the study of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. I think that we are in duty bound to be optimistic and to trust and believe that between now and the completion of the study of the draft statutes of the proposed agency, and by the time we have decided on negotiations for establishing that agency, some progress will have been made in the problem of disarmament and the banning of atomic weapons which may make unnecessary a clause such as that which is suggested in paragraph 1 of the operative part of the Soviet Union draft resolution(A/C.1/L.132).

The second condition laid down by the Soviet Union concerns the placing of the international agency within the framework of the United Nations. Frankly, I believe that the text of the Soviet draft resolution itself proves that progress has been achieved in this Committee, and that it shows also how far we have managed to eradicate certain misunderstandings. Last year, as will be remembered, most of the discussion focussed on the appropriateness of subjecting the work of the agency to possible veto on the part of the Security Council. The text of the Soviet proposal this year shows at least that the interpretation given during the closing meetings last year by the United States delegation has been accepted, namely, that according to the Charter of the United Nations the Security Council can always act when it considers that the activities of the agency may endanger international peace and security, and that there is no justification for subordinating the work of the agency to possible veto in the Security Council. I think that there we have achieved considerable

(Mr. Urrutia, Colombia)

progress, and I take the Soviet draft resolution as accepting that interpretation. It is obvious that some progress has been made and that they stand much closer than they stood last year, and we must definitely appreciate that fact. Furthermore, I feel that this new attitude, and the draft resolution itself as submitted by the Soviet Union, will facilitate the study of a draft for the agency which will place that body within the framework of the United Nations. The fear expressed by public opinion last year was that the Soviet proposal subordinating the agency to the General Assembly and the Security Council might result in paralysis of its work because of the veto in the Security Council. Today we are in a different position; the veto cannot paralyse the work of the agency but, on the other hand, by unanimity in the Security Council the permanent members of that organ can call a halt to any activities of the agency which they might deem to endanger international peace and security. We have passed from a negative attitude to a positive attitude, placing the terms of reference of both these bodies in their true perspective. That, therefore, is how I interpret this Soviet draft resolution.

What the Soviet Union wants now is for the agency to be within the framework of the United Nations. If the present draft resolution is compared with that which was submitted last year, I am sure that it must be agreed that progress has been achieved and that we are much closer now that we were then. We must trust that the negotiations provided for will gradually clear away misunderstanding just as we have cleared away misunderstandings which existed previously in relation to the manner in which the agency should be organized.

Let us take account, furthermore, of the fact that a premature discussion at this time might force countries to take premature positions in public discussion on some of the aspects of the problem that have not as yet been sufficiently studied. For example, I do not think that it would be timely or appropriate to anticipate matters by following the suggestion of the Indian delegation that we should establish standards and norms because, as yet, we do not know what are going to be the views of the various Governments on this subject. Nor do I think that we should set up a Committee which would, de facto, take up negotiations on the establishment of the agency without having given

(Mr. Urrutia, Colombia)

representatives an opportunity to study the reports from Governments. The Governments are still studying statutes which at present are no more than draft statutes. I do not think that we ought to take up problems which might turn out to be only imaginary, but it might be dangerous to study or prepare statutes and then place them before States as a fait accompli. What reason have we to suppose for one moment that the representative Governments will not read and study the statutes? Why should we suppose in advance that they will not submit reports to the Assembly? Why should we assume that the observations of Governments will not be heeded -- observations such as those made at our last meeting by Mr. Schurmann, and other observations expressing the points of view of Norway, the Netherlands, Mexico, Denmark, Israel and many other countries? Why should we suppose that suggestions such as that made in the draft resolution submitted by China will not be heeded? I believe frankly that the draft statutes were sent not to a restricted group of countries but to the whole of the eighty-four nations that participated in the Conference at Geneva.

To have accepted the idea of universality in the agency is already tremendous progress, especially if we compare the situation in this case with what happened in the case of other agencies.

(Mr. Urrutia, Colombia)

The results of the Geneva Conference have been so encouraging that it is our duty to give a vote of confidence to those who organized it and to await the end of negotiations which are now taking place before we enter into a debate here that might create difficulties and misunderstandings on questions that, at the appropriate moment, might be quite easy to solve.

Last year, when I was Chairman of this Committee, the late Mr. Vyshinsky came to me, when the Committee was concluding its debate on this same item, and asked me to try to organize the discussion in such a way that a vote might be taken as soon as possible. He told me that, even if the Soviet Union amendments were rejected, the Soviet Union would vote for the United States draft resolution because it considered it indispensable that, by a unanimous vote, the necessary atmosphere should be created for the holding of the Geneva Conference and for progress in the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. I am sure that Mr. Menon remembers the conversations that we held during the next few days with the Soviet Union delegation and the particular interest which Mr. Vyshinsky showed, only a few hours before his death, in obtaining a unanimous vote in the First Committee. Perhaps the news of Mr. Vyshinsky's illness and then his death prevented the Committee from realizing the full significance of the statements made on the morning of 22 November 1954 by Mr. Sobolev and Mr. Menon. I believe, however, that those two statements had decisive effects. Not only did they lead to a unanimous vote in the Committee, but they also contributed greatly to the establishment of a new atmosphere, without which the Geneva Conference would have been impossible.

I believe that if we want to make any progress that atmosphere must be maintained. We must avoid debates which would poison minds and cause difficulties which it would not be easy to overcome. My delegation feels that we must not run the risk of destroying the atmosphere created by the statements of Mr. Sobolev and Mr. Menon on 22 November of last year. I should like to draw the attention of all representatives to those two statements. I would beg them to read the statements again. I think that, today, we are facing a problem very similar to the one we were facing last year. Last year, we had to create a new atmosphere in order to find a solution to the problem. I think that, this year, we should take full advantage of that atmosphere and try to find a similar, unanimous solution.

(Mr. Urrutia, Colombia)

Perhaps the best procedure would be to follow the Indian suggestion and adopt a separate resolution on each of the two parts of the present item. I think that Mr. Menon's suggestion has already proved its worth. I think that it might be well to have two separate resolutions, or at least one resolution clearly divided into two parts. I think that, as regards the sub-item on the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, it will be very easy to find a unanimous solution. It would suffice to delete from the United Kingdom-United States-Australian draft resolution everything preceding paragraph 3 -- in other words, the part which refers to sub-item (b) -- and to make that another draft resolution. As regards the sub-item on progress in developing international co-operation for the peaceful uses of atomic energy, we might adopt a resolution which would merely take note of the proposals made in the debate, concluding with the hope that account would be taken of those proposals. We should thus postpone this question until next year, or until the convening of a special conference which would adopt the final text.

I repeat that I believe it would be premature, and to a certain extent even discourteous, to study this matter now and adopt a resolution on it before we have the reports of Governments. After all, we have formally requested the views of these Governments, and we should therefore await a report from them. I shall not submit a formal proposal to this effect, because I still believe that the countries which have submitted the draft resolutions before the Committee will be able to agree among themselves on texts following the general lines which I have discussed.

The CHAIRMAN: There are no other names on the list of speakers. The Committee will therefore be adjourned at this time. I would remind representatives that the list of speakers in the general debate will be closed at 6 p.m. today. Those representatives who do inscribe their names on the list will, I hope, be prepared to speak when we call on them. There are obvious reasons why we should press on with this very important debate -- of course, giving due time for proper preparation of speeches. The next meeting will be held at 10.30 a.m. tomorrow.

The meeting rose at 5.5 p.m.