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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:

Mr. Nutting	(United Kingdom)
Mr. Sandler	(Sweden)

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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

Mr. NUTTING (United Kingdom): I think it would be to the advantage of our debate if I were to discuss the two sub-items of this item together. If that is agreeable to my colleagues, I should like to direct my remarks to three main subject headings which are all inseparably interwoven.

First, I should like to say something of the achievements of the United Kingdom in the development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes; secondly, I should like to give my Government's views on the Geneva Conference of scientists, on the benefits which flowed from that Conference and on the advantages to be gained from the fullest co-operation and exchange of information between scientists; and thirdly, I want to deal with international co-operation between States, to discuss the establishment of an international atomic energy agency and to consider the progress which has been made in regional and bilateral arrangements between my country, the nations of the Commonwealth and other countries.

Let me at the outset apologize to you, Mr. Chairman, and to my colleagues in advance for the length of my speech. But the subjects with which it treats are as complicated as they are important and, alas, cannot be expounded in the crisp Anglo-Saxon phrases of the pre-atomic age.

Let me begin by saying something of the achievements of my own country in the development of peaceful atoms. And let me confess right away that what I am going to say may seem a little boastful; but then, I am proud and -- as I think representatives will understand from what I have to say -- justifiably proud of what we in Britain have done and have achieved in production at home and co-operation abroad.

Right from the end of the last war the United Kingdom has devoted considerable resources to the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. We realized from the beginning that there was considerable scope for making immediate use of atomic energy as a new tool of research in medicine and science generally and a new tool, what is more, which had immense, though long-range, possibilities. Our first efforts were in the field of radioactive isotopes -- in the manufacture of radioactive isotopes -- which we have made available on a substantial scale, for industrial uses as well as for research, to a large number of countries in most parts of the world. These shipments of isotopes began as long ago as 1948 and their numbers have grown rapidly from year to year. Today the United Kingdom is the world's largest exporter.

We also thought that, with further research into the subject of atomic energy itself, it would be possible in time to harness the vast resources of energy within the atom and to convert much of that energy into electric power for practical uses in industry and the home. Our early hopes and expectations were fulfilled faster even than we had dared to anticipate. Two years ago work on the Calder Hall atomic reactor in England was begun. This, I am proud to say, will be the first full-scale nuclear power reactor to start operations throughout the whole surface of the globe. It will be the first power reactor in the world to generate electricity at a competitive price. Towards the end of next year the Calder Hall reactor will be feeding substantial quantities of power into our national electricity system. We hope in time to develop further and more advanced examples of this and other types of power reactors.

Our current programme is intended to give us an installed nuclear power capacity of 1,500 to 2,000 megawatts by 1965, and 10,000 to 15,000 megawatts by 1975. This programme has been drawn up to enable British scientists and industry to come to grips with the problems of the design and building of nuclear plants in order to acquire the experience necessary for the full exploitation of this new technology. It comes, moreover, at a time when the

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great and growing demand for energy in the United Kingdom is placing an increasing strain on our supplies of coal, and makes the search for other sources of energy a matter of great and growing urgency.

I think that it is generally agreed among international engineers that the capital costs of nuclear power stations in relation to their designed electrical capacity will be appreciably higher in the next decade than those of what I might term conventional power stations. Nevertheless, with advancing technology, these costs will come down and it is estimated that the proportion of electricity to be generated by nuclear power in Britain by 1975 -- that is, in twenty years' time -- will be 40 per cent of the total power consumed. This estimate compares with an estimate of between 1 per cent and 15 per cent in the case of the United States, where electricity is generated by conventional methods at a very much lower cost than in Great Britain.

Now a word about international co-operation. From the beginning of our own researches into the peaceful uses of the atom, we have worked to foster international co-operation on a growing and a grand scale. At Oxford, as long ago as 1951, and again in 1954, we organized international conferences on the use of radioactive isotopes and the related techniques. These conferences were attended by scientists of many countries. We therefore, naturally and whole-heartedly, welcomed the proposal that this kind of co-operation should be carried further by an international conference organized by the United Nations on all aspects of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. This conference at Geneva was a remarkable experience for those scientists and others fortunate enough to participate. With so much work and discussion crammed into the short space of two weeks, it was doubtless also an exhausting experience calculated to test the stamina as much as the knowledge of those who took part. The opportunity for private and informal relations between scientists of all the participating countries was a heartening experience for them and also for their lay-brethren who watched their discussions from afar. We warmly welcome the friendly contacts -- and the most useful contacts -- that were so quickly made between the scientists of the East and the West. We look forward to such contacts developing on an even wider scale in the future.

We should pay tribute to the excellent preparatory work undertaken by the Secretary-General and by his staff. There was, we know, a vast amount of detailed work necessary for the organization of a scientific conference on so unprecedented a scale; and, in the outcome, all the arrangements throughout the whole fortnight of the conference worked smoothly and expeditiously. Mr. Hammarskjöld can take legitimate pride in the most successful achievement of the two basic objectives of the conference, namely, to quote the words of his own report, "to achieve the freest possible discussion, exchange and sharing of general knowledge" and to ensure "that the Conference...would be scientific in the most objective sense, and free from all political bias". Much of this achievement was, I know, due to his very able chairmanship of the Advisory Committee.

I would like also to pay tribute to Dr. Bhaba, the President of the conference, who is himself a notable scientist, eminent in his own chosen field, a man whom we welcome today in our midst. In his opening address to the conference, Dr. Bhaba set its various aspects and problems in their proper broad perspective, and again in his closing speech he gave a most notable and balanced appreciation of the proceedings.

Perhaps I am entitled to add that the scientists of the United Kingdom contributed papers of outstanding importance to almost every one of the various sessions of the conference. In the sessions on nuclear power the United Kingdom delegation described the engineering details of the Calder Hall reactor and the Dounreay "Breeder" reactor, models of which were shown at the exhibition. They also contributed many papers on reactor technology, and outlined our current programme to which I have just referred.

In what are really the early days of the use of atomic energy for generating electrical power a conference of scientists, such as that at Geneva, was inevitably enthralled by solutions of many of the outstanding problems of nuclear science.

But there is, of necessity, a big gap between the solution proposed by the scientist, based on his work in the laboratory, and the building by the engineer of a large power reactor. There is a big gap between the experimental stage and the actual operation of a power reactor which will work, day in day out, with safety, ease and reliability. Some of the papers presented by British engineers

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emphasized that if the first commercial reactors were to work safely and reliably they must be essentially simple and based on engineering experience already gained and already tested. The engineer and his associates have as much to contribute to the successful solution of the problem of utilizing nuclear energy as the scientist, and it will take time before the engineers, chemists and metallurgists gradually build up the necessary technique, practice and experience. It will take time to enable them to design and build the complex types of power reactors needed to supply electricity at an economic price and on a world-wide scale. The theoretical solutions of these problems can already be envisaged by the scientists. But inevitably there is a time-lag between invention and use, between drawing-board and production line, between laboratory and application. Science, after all, has to become applied science before it can benefit the world.

Thus it is, I think, abundantly clear that nuclear power on a large commercial scale is not yet with us. For many years power reactors will be of a pioneer or demonstration character, built to test the technology and the relative advantages of the many differing types that are theoretically conceivable. We are, as yet, only beginning to establish a sound basis for future developments. We must not be misled by superficial optimism and enthusiasm. But at the same time I want to assure my colleagues, and through them all who are anxious to use atomic energy to satisfy the needs for power, that my country is making an unparalleled effort in research and in the construction of prototypes. I have myself no doubt that the speed of development in the design of reactors will be as unprecedented as has been the development of these atomic forces in the field of weapons of war. It is, I am told, estimated that by the year 2000 nuclear energy will be able to do the work of 2 to 3 million tons of coal a year throughout the world.

Inevitably, much, if not most, of this further research into the problems of nuclear power and the construction of prototype and demonstration reactors can be undertaken only by the industrialized nations that have advanced in this field. But the results of these researches and judgments on the kind of reactors most suited for economic development are being made widely available. What more rewarding example of international co-operation in this world can there be?

There is, however, a great deal yet to be learned, even by those most expert and competent and experienced in this field. That is why we proposed in the draft resolution before the Committee that another conference should be held under United Nations auspices in about three years' time. Why, some may ask, wait three years? I think the answer is very simple. That interval of time seems about right, given the need for such a renewed conference not to cover old ground already familiar, and already covered at the last, but to consider and appraise the new advances in knowledge and technique that are bound to be made meanwhile.

(Mr. Nutting, United Kingdom)

I would also like to make a practical suggestion about the organization and agenda of the next conference. As a practical suggestion I would like to propose that this next conference does not attempt to cover so wide a ground as that which was held at Geneva last summer.

There have already been international conferences on the use of radioactive isotopes. Similar specialised conferences have also been held on the biological and medical problems of radioactivity. There would therefore be something to be gained by the promotion of separate conferences on those aspects, which are really quite distinct and which themselves cover a very wide range of subjects. This would enable the next conference on atomic energy to concentrate more on the theoretical and practical problems involved in transforming atomic energy into electrical power; to concentrate, in short, on the greatest challenge of the new industrial age.

To cope with the many intricate details involved in organizing one of these conferences, I am sure that we all agree that the Secretary-General's Advisory Committee should be kept in being. This Committee could consider, with more time at its disposal than it had in connexion with Geneva, the preparations for the next Conference. I am not in a position to say, and I am not going to try now to say, how frequently that Advisory Committee should meet. That is largely for them to decide. But I hope that they will give themselves ample time to consider the scope and nature of the next conference and to pronounce upon the proposal which I have made in connexion with its discussions and the breadth of its agenda.

Looking ahead into the mysteries of this fantastic age, it is not possible to see how long the initial phase of research and development into nuclear power reactors will last. It may only last some five to ten years. But after this initial phase has been overcome, it is abundantly clear from the proceedings at Geneva that revolutions in technique will continue for very many years thereafter. For instance, there is the possibility, as yet still distant, of building economical breeder reactors. We laymen all tend to think of uranium as the sole material capable of being used in nuclear reactors. This is undoubtedly true today and I believe will remain so for a decade. But I am told that, before too long, the engineers and scientists may be able to build large reactors which will be capable of breeding fissile material from thorium.



(Mr. Nutting, United Kingdom)

Thus we should be able to make use for generating electrical power not only of the immense reserves of uranium ore that are known, or are suspected, to exist in various parts of the world, but also of the even vaster and virtually untapped resources of thorium. The nuclear scientists can see the possibilities, but the engineers, the chemists and the metallurgists have still to work them out.

Further in the distance, there is an even more ambitious possibility: to achieve the nuclear physicist's dream of using the fusion of atoms in a controlled hydrogen reaction and thereby obtaining nuclear power without the use of uranium or thorium. If success is achieved in this, then the world will have an unlimited source of energy for all time. It has even been suggested that when this day dawns, we shall be able to go to the Hudson River, scoop up a can of water, put it in the fuel tank and drive away our car on this form of power. For the convenience of my fellow representatives, I am assured that the water in the East River would do just as well.

But scientists at the moment are only just beginning to consider the means of overcoming the immense practical difficulties of making use of fusion. This possibility, just touched upon at Geneva, naturally attracted considerable public attention. But it will be a very great many years before it will be possible to apply the laboratory experiments of this hydrogen dream to the prototype plants of the engineer.

From this more distant future, I come now to one of the present issues immediately before the Political Committee. I turn to the proposed international agency. The United Kingdom endorsed the proposal to form an international atomic energy agency and, as the Committee will recall, we last year indicated our willingness to make a significant contribution of fissile material to this agency. An agency offers a means by which the leading atomic countries can offer their help to other countries. Atomic projects of any kind cost vast sums of money. They require the services of a large number of highly qualified scientists and engineers. Few States have ample resources both of finance and of skill. In a field so new, when no one is yet certain which of the many types of power reactors will ultimately prove the most economic, it would clearly save both in money and effort for many States not to attempt their own construction of atomic plants and prototypes but to obtain advice and help through the agency.

(Mr. Nutting, United Kingdom)

The draft statute for establishing the international agency has been circulated by the United States Government to all Governments Members of the United Nations and of the specialised agencies. This draft attempts to provide in its various provisions for the gradual evolution of the agency. It would be unwise at the present moment to stipulate in detail exactly what must and what must not be done by this body. It is certain that as time goes on new aspects of its activities will emerge that are not as yet in the minds of any of us.

The proposed agency, if it is really to help in enabling the benefits of atomic energy to be secured by all States, must be a body capable of reaching decisions, taking action upon those decisions, and pursuing that course of action over a number of years. Of course, it was never intended that the draft statute was to be accepted as a fait accompli in the form in which it was circulated. But if the agency is ever to come into being, then someone had to produce a draft as a basis for discussion in order to get agreement upon a final document. But in so doing, we of course took very good care to pay attention to the views expressed in last year's Assembly debate, as was enjoined upon us by the resolution that we adopted unanimously at the end of that discussion.

(Mr. Nutting, United Kingdom)

Even so, even though we have taken account of the debate that took place last year, I would be very surprised if the final form of the statute does not differ in many respects from the draft that has been circulated. But the details of a draft statute are hardly the sort of thing which can be fruitfully discussed here, and I would suggest to my colleagues that all the comments which we want on that draft statute should be handled through governmental channels and sent direct to the United States Government. As my distinguished colleague, Senator Pastore, said on Friday, we look forward to receiving these comments, which I have no doubt will be a very great help and guide to the framing of the final statute.

I know that conflicting views are held about the relationship of the agency with the United Nations. For my Government's part, I must say that we feel it should take the form of a specialized agency. Its relationship with the United Nations must be such as not to hamper its effectiveness. It must not be subjected to the political or ideological pressures which have in the past so unhappily frustrated the work of the United Nations itself, but happily not the work of the specialized agencies. After all, the tasks of the atomic agency will be largely technical and industrial, and such tasks should, in our view, not be pursued in an atmosphere made difficult or impossible by the interplay of international politics.

What is more, if the agency is to make progress in this field, we must consider the industrial and scientific potentialities of atomic energy on their own merits. We must not allow progress to be held up merely because we are unable at present to agree upon the means of controlling disarmament. There must, of course, be a relationship -- there is a relationship, a very clear and definite relationship -- between the peaceful uses of the atom and the means of ensuring its prohibition as a weapon of war. They are offspring of the same parent. They are, if you like, brother and sister. But they are not twins; they do not have to be born at the same time.

(Mr. Nutting, United Kingdom)

The more resources we can devote to research into the industrial and commercial aspects of atomic energy, the more, I do suggest, it will in time enable us to deal with the very intricate but separate aspects of how to avoid the use of atomic energy as an engine of warfare. It is only by trying to break down our problems into their separate component parts that we shall make progress in resolving any one of them.

As events over the last several years have shown, the establishment of an international atomic agency does not preclude other forms of international agreement and co-operation. It would not be feasible to channel every interchange of advice and material between countries through the agency. Besides, direct atomic relations -- if I may so term them -- do exist. There is room for both methods. There is need for both methods. They are complementary. I should like to say something, if I may, about the progress which we have made in international co-operation with our friends in the world outside. But first I should, I think, say a few words, if it is not thought out of place, about the development of national atomic projects in other countries which has made these atomic relations possible between States.

A number of countries, quite apart from those most closely associated in the public mind with atomic development, had at the time of our last discussion already established atomic energy projects. Since then, one or two other countries have taken this step and have linked their universities, research institutes and their leading interested industrial organizations into one body for promoting research and development into atomic energy. In every case, these countries have naturally considered in what way research into atomic energy might best be pursued to suit their own needs. Each of them, according to their relative reliance upon imported fuels, have set up these projects. Some are possessed of resources essential to the development of atomic energy. Others are impelled by a desire to develop new means of propulsion, for instance, of steamships. The establishment of such projects is, of course, open only to countries in possession of adequate physical and financial resources and enjoying the services of a number of capable and highly trained scientists. I shall not, of course, attempt to speak for these countries individually. Apart from the fact that it would be out of place for me to do so, I am looking forward to hearing of their achievements from their own representatives in this debate.

(Mr. Nutting, United Kingdom)

As many members of the Committee are aware, there has been much discussion for some time past in Western Europe regarding the possibilities of collaboration between the atomic energy projects in each of the various countries. It is possible to conceive of collaboration of various degrees of closeness and there are naturally many problems entailed in such collaboration. There are problems of reconciling the different research interests in the different projects; of the full exchange of information; and of the possible establishment of commonly owned prototype or ancillary plants. An enquiry into these matters is now being conducted by a working party of the Organization for European Economic Co-operation. In addition to this enquiry, the six powers who form the European Coal-Steel Community have separately decided to institute an enquiry of their own as to how best they may achieve collaboration in atomic energy. These discussions flow from decisions taken by the Ministers of the six Powers at Messina last June, and they have been going on in Brussels during this last month or so. We in the United Kingdom are happy to be associated in these discussions.

In all these matters of international co-operation the United Kingdom has a vital interest and part to play. The United Kingdom is a country which, more than most, must live by international trade and by providing international services on a massive scale. We in the United Kingdom have naturally sought always to expand our contacts in the field of atomic energy. We live, as I say, by the provision of international services. For many years these services have included banking, insurance and shipping. Now we move into a new era which has appeared, that of international atomic co-operation. May I say a word about our ties with our friends in the world outside?

First and foremost, of course, in our international co-operation rank the close ties we enjoy with the nations of the Commonwealth.

Our co-operation with Canada has been especially close ever since 1942. Since that time there has been a continual interchange of information and material. Later we entered into close and intimate collaboration with Australia, and this led over a year ago to an arrangement that the United Kingdom would help Australia both in the designing of a large and powerful research reactor and in training Australian scientists and engineers at establishments in England.

(Mr. Nutting, United Kingdom)

Quite recently, similar arrangements have been reached between the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority and the Indian Atomic Energy Commission; under these arrangements, help will be provided in the design and construction of high-powered research reactors, and there will be some co-ordination of the research programmes of the two bodies. With New Zealand we have organized a joint company for the production of heavy water. Discussions are in progress with other Commonwealth countries in this field of international co-operation.

As everyone will know, there is a formal arrangement between the United Kingdom and the United States, which provides for an exchange of information on a wide range of subjects and makes possible the transfer of materials and equipment. We are also about to reach an agreement with the Belgian Government, which will, like that between the United States and Belgium, be a formal arrangement between Governments. I must at this point emphasize that, apart from the countries of the British Commonwealth and the United States, there have been frequent close contacts between England and the countries in Western Europe. An agreement between the United Kingdom Authority and the French Atomic Energy Commission provides for collaboration on a wide range of subjects, for help in materials and for assistance in certain fields of reactor technology. The Danish Atomic Energy Commission entered into an agreement with the United Kingdom Authority in June of this year, under which the two bodies will collaborate in a mutually agreed programme of research. This will help the Danish Commission to erect a large and powerful research reactor. There are especially close relations with the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom Authority is discussing with some of the other Western European countries joint programmes of research and co-operation.

British scientists have taken an active part in establishing the European Society for Atomic Energy. This Society, which meets at fairly regular intervals, has been the means of promoting the most friendly relations between the scientists in the countries concerned. In addition, the United Kingdom Government has an important share in the work of the European Council for Nuclear Research -- generally known as CERN -- which has its headquarters at Geneva and is concerned with fundamental nuclear research.

As part of the explanation of this very wide and, I hope, growing British co-operation overseas, I should perhaps say that the legislation in the United Kingdom under which the Atomic Energy Authority was established gives that Authority the fullest power to enter into arrangements with corresponding organizations in other countries. Owing to this flexibility, these arrangements need not be and are not expressed in any standardized form. But, notwithstanding their lack of uniformity -- indeed, perhaps, because of this lack of uniformity -- such arrangements are best designed to enable us in the United Kingdom to promote research into atomic energy and to further its rapid development.

Lastly, as regards this field of international co-operation, may I say that in this present phase of research and development the training of students is one of the most useful ways in which we can help one another to make rapid progress. Nuclear physics and, even more, reactor physics are only just beginning to form part of the curriculum in a few universities. At present, they can be studied with understanding only by those who have already been trained as physicists; they are really subjects of post-graduate study. It is essential, if countries are to be able to operate nuclear power reactors, that they should do what they can to build up a body of trained scientists and technicians. The United Kingdom is making, and will continue to make, considerable efforts to expand training facilities for overseas students. The Isotope School at Harwell has now been going for some time, and a large number of overseas students have already attended its courses. The first course for overseas students at the Reactor School at Harwell begins this month. Arrangements are also in hand for some British universities to increase the number of courses available in reactor physics.

I think that I have said enough to show that the United Kingdom is not dragging its feet, either in the production of and the research into atomic energy for peaceful uses or in the field of international co-operation and help to other countries.

We look forward to the time in the not too distant future when, as a result of these and other researches and efforts which are being made in the world today, nuclear power as a commercial proposition can be used in a number of countries hitherto hampered by the lack of indigenous fuels or sources of power.

Much of what I have told the Committee has, I fear, been couched in the dry and colourless language of technology. That is inevitable in any factual account of progress and co-operation in this new scientific age. This new language is unknown to many, unfamiliar and unpronounceable to almost all. But to our children and the generations which come after them, these scientific terms will be household words. They will accept what we regard as a fantastic dream with all the nonchalance with which we today accept the aeroplane and the radio. We are today laying the foundations of a completely new world, a new world of science and invention which is making a mockery of the word "impossible", a new world where dreams no longer wait for centuries to be fulfilled. It has become a commonplace in our debates to draw the contrast between the measureless devastation and the unimaginable benefits which atomic energy can create. I, as the United Kingdom representative since the beginning of this year in the Disarmament Sub-Committee of the United Nations, am rather well placed to grasp this contrast. There can, of course, be no question of the choice which the world must make. There can be no doubt of our will to see the atom uplift and not destroy the human race.

Let us, therefore, work together in partnership with one another to bend this fantastic new force to the destruction, **not** of man himself, but of the enemies of man: the real, abiding, deep-rooted enemies, hunger and famine, poverty and disease.



Mr. SANDLER (Sweden): I have asked to speak in order to make some brief comments exclusively on point (a) of the item before us, reserving the right of my delegation to state its position on point (b) of the same item at a later stage.

As a layman, deeply interested in the matter from a more general point of view, I appreciated being a participant at the Geneva atomic conference. It was the most successful international conference that I have ever attended.

It must have been a difficult task to organize such a large conference at which more than 1,000 papers were presented. For my part, I had wondered how it would be possible to go through this over-burdened programme in only twelve days. It worked out admirably well, however.

The preparations made by the Secretary-General and his Advisory Committee were perfect. The rules of procedure were wise and efficient, and these rules were strictly adhered to. There was no procedural wrangling at all.

It was, indeed, a conference of an extraordinary type; there were no propaganda speeches and no points of order, but there was an excellent order of business. There was no voting, there were no decisions, there were no recommendations.

But this conference, which did not produce a single resolution, was much more useful in fact than most of our Assembly resolutions during the ten years. Scientists from countries all over the world assembled in Geneva, and they did not introduce resolutions. They presented solutions to many of the problems of the atomic age.

This assembly of more than seventy delegations gave a manifestation not only of peaceful coexistence, but of what I would rather call agreeable coexistence. But even more than that, at Geneva coexistence was transformed into co-operation.

It was extremely interesting to note that the development of atomic science, illustrated from both sides of the "iron curtain", or shall I now speak of the "aluminum curtain", has essentially been a parallel one. The very impressive fact was not the superiority in scientific quality of the one or the other big Power, but the triumph of science itself, international as it is in essence.

Another conclusion which may be drawn from the experience at Geneva is that it will be very difficult -- I daresay that I hope that it will never be possible -- to go back to the dark decade when atomic science was a state secret.

The usefulness of holding another international atomic conference at a later stage was emphasized at the end of the conference from several sides, especially in the concluding remarks of the eminent Indian president.

My delegation associates itself in principle with this idea. We wonder, however, if the practical effect would not be greater by holding not one conference covering all aspects of this already very vast field of science and engineering, but several more specialized conferences. This would make possible more discussion than was had at the Geneva meeting. Many of the items on the Geneva programme have their natural place on the agendas of existing scientific associations.

The power problem, however, is of special concern to the United Nations because of its worldwide implications. To handle the manifold problems of power production by nuclear means and affiliated questions, such as the processing of ores and safety guarantees, would be quite enough work for another conference in due time. I share, therefore, the opinion expressed this afternoon in the brilliant intervention of the representative of the United Kingdom.

In conclusion, I wish to state that my delegation feels that the suggestions made by the Secretary-General at the end of his report are valuable ones. The Advisory Committee, which has worked so well, should be allowed to continue its activity as a consultative body, in view of the responsibilities which the Secretariat may have to meet in the near future. My delegation accepts the arrangement suggested by the Secretary-General in regard to this question, and will vote accordingly.

The CHAIRMAN: I have no further speakers on my list in the general debate.

Mr. Krishna MENON (India): It will be recalled that when we first met to discuss this item, my delegation raised the question of the relation between these two topics and their bearing upon the debate.

I stated at that time that in our view these were two separate but related topics having important and far-reaching consequences. I suggested that, in our view, it was possible to have a debate on one of the topics and to dispose of it and then to take up the other one. We did not, however, take a rigid position on this question. Thanks to the Chairman's guidance, we left this in that way at that time.

Now as the debate has continued, it has shown both possibilities. The representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom covered the field of both topics, while we have just heard the representative of Sweden confine himself to one.

While our delegation is concerned in this matter, we would be willing to accept the position that the debate may cover whatever field the speakers desire to cover. We would presume, however, that in accordance with the normal practice, when we come to the next stage, after the closing of the general debate, that is to the resolution stage, there will be discussion on the two topics and resolutions separately, in order that we may be able to proceed in a practical manner.

Before concluding, I should like to recall the large number of precedents which exist on this question. It has been the normal practice of the Committee, when there is a general debate covering two topics, to have it extend only to the period of the general debate. I hope that that will be the position when we have concluded the general debate. If it should not be, I shall have to seek the guidance of the Chair at that stage.

The CHAIRMAN: I am indebted to the representative of India. When the time comes for the consideration of the draft resolutions, no doubt the representative of India will make such application as he is advised to make.

I foresee that there will be draft resolutions dealing with one or the other of the two topics now under debate. Where there are separate draft resolutions, I would assume that they would be discussed separately.

The representative of India is aware, of course, that a draft resolution has been presented which, as I read it, does deal with both topics. I am not prepared to say at the moment how that will be dealt with. On the face of it, I would imagine that, in the course of the debate on that draft resolution, there would be a debate on both its limbs.

I suggest to the representative of India that this matter can be left until we reach that stage at the end of the debate. Other draft resolutions may be presented, and I feel that at the moment I cannot carry the matter any further.

Mr. Krishna MENON (India): I am happy to leave the matter there. I wish to make no comment concerning the other part of the Chairman's observations.

The CHAIRMAN: I have no other speakers for the general debate. As I have only one speaker listed for tomorrow, I think it would be convenient for the Committee to meet at 3 p.m.

May I suggest to the Committee, as we are embarking on a very important debate, that as many members as possible, and as soon as possible, let the Secretary know when they propose to speak. I am aware that this is a subject which requires careful examination by the various members of the Committee. But the Committee will be aware that we have a considerable number of very important subjects before us. Time seems to pass at the commencement of a session in a somewhat leisurely way, but it passes a little more quickly as the days advance. I would urge upon you, if I may, to give some consideration to what I have suggested.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.