

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

NINTH SESSION
Official Records



**FIRST COMMITTEE, 709th
MEETING**

**Monday, 8 November 1954,
at 3 p.m.**

New York

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Agenda item 67:	
International co-operation in developing the peaceful uses of atomic energy: report of the United States of America (<i>continued</i>)	305
Allocation to the First Committee of two additional agenda items	307

Chairman: Mr. Francisco URRUTIA (Colombia).

AGENDA ITEM 67

International co-operation in developing the peaceful uses of atomic energy: report of the United States of America (A/2734, A/2738, A/C.1/L.105) (*continued*)

1. Mr. LODGE (United States of America) said he wished to clear up a few points raised at the previous meeting by the representative of the Soviet Union.

2. The first question asked was why, to use the words of the Soviet representative, the present United States proposal narrowed down the scope of economic assistance. Mr. Lodge's reply was that the United States proposal did not have that effect. The policy of the United States was not to reduce technical assistance, but rather to increase it. The United States was anxious that electric power from atomic energy should be provided as soon as possible, but wished to caution against the expectation that it would come into being overnight.

3. Secondly, the Soviet Union representative had referred to the relationships between the agency and the General Assembly and the Security Council. Mr. Lodge replied that the United Nations agreement with the agency presumably would work out any necessary or desirable relationships with the General Assembly and the Security Council, and he hoped and expected that the agency's relationship with the Security Council would not be such that the agency could be paralysed by the veto.

4. Thirdly, the Soviet Union representative had referred to Mr. Lodge's statement (707th meeting) that in the near future the agency would be able to carry out only the most suitable of its ultimate activities. Mr. Lodge replied that it would not be possible for the agency to do everything in its first year. For example, the training courses which the United States had proposed could not be at once conducted by the agency, and if they were left to the agency, there would be no such training in the immediate future. The same applied to other matters, for the agency could not be expected to reach maturity in a few months.

5. Fourthly, the Soviet Union representative had asked what the proposed plan would do to reduce the potential destructive force of atomic energy. Mr. Lodge replied that that was a disarmament problem and the procedure to be followed in disarmament had just been unanimously agreed upon (702nd meeting). Moreover, the President of the United States had made it clear that he was not making a disarmament proposal, although he hoped that his proposal would make disarmament easier.

6. Finally, the Soviet Union representative had said it was wrong to call the Soviet Union attitude essentially negative. Mr. Lodge said that the Soviet Union could show that he was wrong by supporting the joint draft resolution (A/C.1/L.105) which was before the Committee and by starting negotiations on the agency, and Mr. Lodge hoped the Soviet Union would do both.

7. Mr. LEME (Brazil) said that the statements made so far in the debate had provoked dreams of the marvels promised from the peaceful use of atomic energy. The representative of the Soviet Union also had given hopes that the Soviet Union would join in the enthusiasm for the joint draft resolution.

8. On 15 November 1945, the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada had undertaken to share with the United Nations their information on the industrial applications of atomic energy. President Eisenhower's statement at the eighth session of the General Assembly (470th plenary meeting) had been a great contribution towards co-operation in the new era. And now negotiations had begun. Co-operation in developing peaceful uses had been included in the agenda of the current session. All those facts were very gratifying.

9. Mr. Leme recalled that in the course of the general debate, on 1 October (486th plenary meeting), he had said that it was the duty of scientists of all nations to combine their efforts in a task which spelled the preservation of the universe. Atomic energy, he had said, must be abhorred as an instrument of destruction, but welcomed as an instrument of peace.

10. Mr. Leme wished to reaffirm that Brazil would make every possible contribution to the future agency from its store of knowledge and resources. The chairman of the Brazilian National Research Council had recently outlined the extent of Brazil's activities in that field; those activities would probably be of considerable importance in view of Brazil's resources of uranium, thorium and zirconium. Under Brazilian law, the National Research Council was responsible for initiating studies and furthering the industrial use of atomic energy, and the President of the Republic was solely responsible for policy relating to atomic energy.

11. The first essential was the training of competent personnel and that role had been undertaken by the universities. Studies in nuclear physics were well ad-

vanced at the Universities of São Paulo and Brazil, and certain professors of those universities were well known both in North America and in Europe. Brazil held third place among the forty-two nations which had radio-isotopes from the United States. A course on methods of handling isotopes which had been given in the Universities of London and Stockholm had been given in 1953 at the University of São Paulo and had been attended by scientists from other Latin-American countries.

12. It was only natural that the historic appeal made by the President of the United States should have evoked a warm response on all sides. That proposal had now been given concrete expression in the programme before the First Committee. Thanks to the work of the scientists, atomic energy had been harnessed to the service of man; the fearful responsibility of deciding how it should be used lay with the politicians and statesmen. Atomic energy could give mankind everything or destroy everything; it was to be hoped that Governments and peoples would make the proper choice.

13. Mr. SARPÉR (Turkey) said that the possibility of international co-operation in developing the peaceful uses of atomic energy opened the door to the welfare and prosperity of mankind. There could be a new era where all nations could work together in peace to harness atomic energy to constructive pursuits. The proposal made by the United States President had been widely welcomed, and by none more warmly than the President of Turkey.

14. The statements made so far in the debate had dealt with three main aspects of the problem in a general way.

15. First, they had shown what efforts had been made in the past year to give reality to the proposals. Although the negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union had so far had no tangible result, perhaps the recent talks on disarmament would lead the Soviet Union to associate itself with the agency. However, the United States Secretary of State, Mr. Dulles, while expressing his readiness to negotiate with the Soviet Union, had said (475th plenary meeting) that the United States would no longer suspend its efforts to establish the agency, although he hoped for Soviet participation. The representatives of the United Kingdom and Canada had taken much the same position (707th meeting).

16. Secondly, explanations had been given on the technical advances achieved in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Those explanations had made the Committee more aware of the potentialities of nuclear energy in medicine, agriculture, industry, biology and power production. The offers of the United States and those of the United Kingdom and Canada to extend assistance to other nations in the training of scientists, engineers and students were appreciated. Although Turkey was interested in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, its own resources needed great development. Turkey therefore welcomed the promise of aid on the basis of bilateral agreements before the agency was ready to work. Such arrangements would assist all nations with inadequate resources.

17. The third aspect of the problem touched upon in the various statements was the proposed line of action, namely, the establishment of an international atomic energy agency and the convening of an inter-

national technical conference. The Turkish delegation agreed in principle with that line of action. It believed, moreover, that the composition and activities of the agency, and its relationship with the United Nations, as they had been described, were likely to lead to the desired results. Naturally, specific points of detail would require much further exploration. With regard to the conference, Mr. Sarper believed that it would be of great value in discovering the fields where progress was technically feasible and in providing opportunities for exchanges of views. Such discussions would help to clarify the activities of the agency.

18. Mr. Sarper emphasized the importance attached by the Turkish delegation to such schemes and, without prejudicing his delegation's right to intervene again later, he wished to say that the foregoing considerations would govern Turkey's position on the joint draft resolution.

19. Mr. ECHEVERRI CORTES (Colombia) said that President Eisenhower's proposals and the constructive statement of the United States representative had produced a feeling of relief and hope that an era had begun in which fissionable materials would be used for peaceful purposes. On 6 September 1954, President Eisenhower had initiated the construction of a nuclear power plant near Pittsburgh which would be able to produce sufficient power for a city of 100,000 inhabitants. On the same day, the United States President had announced that the United States, in co-operation with other nations, would in the near future undertake joint action to promote the peaceful uses of atomic energy, and had invited the Soviet Union to take part in that endeavour.

20. To emphasize the rapidity with which atomic energy developments were proceeding in the United States, Mr. Echeverri Cortés cited data from the latest semi-annual report of the United States Atomic Energy Commission concerning uranium mining, milling and refining operations, and concerning a programme for the construction of five experimental reactors over the following five years.

21. For those nations which were not in the position to contribute to the advancement of atomic science, the plan which the United States representative, Mr. Lodge, had presented (707th meeting) for furthering the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes had come as good news. That plan provided for the establishment of an international agency which would come into operation in the course of the following year; for the calling, under the auspices of the United Nations, of an international scientific conference, to meet in the spring of 1955; for the establishment, at the beginning of 1955, of a reactor school which would be open to foreign students and for the extension of invitations to foreign doctors and surgeons to visit cancer research institutions in the United States. The representatives of the United Kingdom and Canada had referred to other advantages of atomic energy. There could be no doubt that results in the form of economic benefits and general welfare would soon appear. When considering the potential uses of atomic energy, it should not be forgotten that the technical development required to make atomic energy an economic substitute for other fuels would take more than ten years. That was why the training of experts and the dissemination of information were of such importance.

22. It might have been easier, both politically and administratively, for the great Powers to act on the basis of bilateral agreements. However, consistently with their policy of giving their full support to the United Nations, they had decided to follow the United States in seeking to achieve their objectives through an international body. Thanks to their participation in the work of that body, the nations concerned would strengthen the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding. The representative of the Soviet Union had stated that he hoped that the debates would end with a unanimous proposal. If that were to be the case, the General Assembly would have achieved unanimity on the two most fundamental proposals for world peace—the proposal on disarmament and the proposal for the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Colombia supported the idea of establishing an international agency, as such an agency would help to raise the living standards of its own people and to strengthen world peace.

23. Mr. COOPER (Liberia) said that the statements on the peaceful uses of atomic energy had been very refreshing after years of frightening statements. The smaller nations had drawn hope from the resolution on disarmament (497th plenary meeting) and from those speeches. They now awaited encouragement from the Soviet Union. Mr. Cooper was sure that the Soviet people had the same hopes and fears and believed in the need for some form of control of atomic energy. Indeed, Mr. Gromyko's *aide-mémoire* of 22 September 1954 (A/2738) had stated as much. And President Eisenhower on 8 December 1953 (470th plenary meeting) had pledged the determination of the United States to ensure that atomic energy was not used for destruction. The smaller nations therefore sometimes wondered why there was such a problem.

24. In his *aide-mémoire* of 27 April 1954 (A/2738), Mr. Molotov had appeared to agree in principle with President Eisenhower's proposal. However, it appeared that the Soviet Union insisted that first there should be a declaration of the unconditional repudiation of the use of atomic energy, hydrogen and other weapons of mass destruction. That point of view was hard for the smaller nations to follow for it seemed to mean that nothing constructive could be done until there was assurance against destruction. Mr. Cooper was sure that that was not the object of the Soviet Union Government, and he hoped that, whatever views the Soviet Union might have had in the past, it, too, would join in the common endeavour.

25. Just as now there were stocks of atomic and hydrogen weapons, it was to be hoped that soon there would be stocks of radio-isotopes and other products for use in medicine, agriculture and other fields. In any case, all nations would be affected by atomic energy, for better or for worse, and it was to be hoped that it would be for their welfare.

26. The smaller nations could contribute little technically or financially, although they might contribute raw materials. However, they would not willingly contribute to a weapon, for the under-developed nations had no aggressive designs and would remain unarmed if assured against interference. It was strange to observe that all the knowledge given to man had been turned to destructive purposes. It was to be hoped that that greatest secret, nuclear fission, would not be dedicated to death, but consecrated to life.

27. Mr. KYROU (Greece) said that President Eisenhower's initiative had met with full approval in Greece as elsewhere, and that Greece supported the efforts for co-operation.

28. Although the principle of the limited divisibility of matter, which had been adopted by modern science, had originated long ago in Greece, in recent times Greece had not contributed directly to nuclear science but only indirectly in the field of mathematics. Greece was, however, a member of the European Organization for Nuclear Research, and it took the view that all nations should co-operate to put into effect the proposal made by the President of the United States.

29. In no other field could co-operation have led to such unbelievable achievements in one generation. What the brains of the scientists had devised, the cyclotrons and reactors had achieved, and had made atomic energy a controllable reality.

30. Once a nation had made a great effort in war, it was natural for it to try to hold its advantage in peace. However, a new era of co-operation might help to prevent future wars by promoting a more realistic appreciation of both benefits and dangers.

31. The Greek delegation therefore fully supported the joint draft resolution (A/C.1/L.105) and hoped that it would be adopted unanimously. The resolution, dealing with the other face of the coin, had been adopted unanimously, and the conciliatory spirit showed by the representative of the Soviet Union justified the hope of the Greek delegation.

Allocation to the First Committee of two additional agenda items (A/C.1/746/Add.2)

32. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the letter dated 4 November from the President of the General Assembly (A/C.1/746/Add.2) concerning the addition of two items to the agenda of the ninth session, "Complaint of acts of aggression against the People's Republic of China and responsibility of the United States Navy for those acts", and "Complaint of violation of the freedom of navigation in the area of the China seas".

33. There being no objection, he declared that they would be added to the agenda of the First Committee to follow the items already on the list.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.