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CONTENTS

Page

Agenda item 67:

 International co-operation in developing the peaceful
uses of atomic energy: report of the United States
of America (*continued*) 323

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. ANDERSEN (Denmark) observed that when his delegation had listened to President Eisenhower's address on 8 December 1953 before the General Assembly (470th meeting), it had felt that a new road, leading towards better relations among nations, might be opened if the delegations assembled understood the high significance of the moment and set to work filled with a sincere will to co-operate for the benefit of mankind. The Danish Government wholeheartedly welcomed that initiative and hoped that all Member States would unite their forces in order to fulfil the expectations of their peoples.

2. Preceding speakers had paid tribute to a number of outstanding scientists in the atomic field. The Danish delegation noted with gratitude that the famous Danish scientist, Professor Niels Bohr, had been mentioned in that connexion. Denmark did not have raw materials for atomic energy. In that respect, therefore, Denmark would be among the receiving countries. Like other nations, however, Denmark was profoundly interested in the success of the new common enterprise, and it regarded it as a great honour that the Danish institute of Professor Bohr in Copenhagen had played an outstanding role in the development of atomic science.

3. The Danish delegation welcomed the initiative taken by the United States and by other nations, and it hoped that the current debate would constitute a significant step in the direction of that open-minded co-operation which was essential to peace and international understanding. The Danish delegation believed that the principle of co-operation was the cornerstone of a satisfactory solution. Consequently, even though viewpoints on details might differ, it was hopeful that the common interest of all nations might result in the surmounting of all difficulties.

4. The unanimously adopted resolution on disarmament had given rise to new optimism. But the deliberations of the Disarmament Commission would obviously take time, and there was no reason why the

United Nations should not proceed as quickly as possible with the establishment of an international agency for the promotion of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Such a step would contribute to the solution of the disarmament problems.

5. The Danish delegation noted with satisfaction that, according to the joint draft resolution (A/C.1/L.105), the agency would be closely linked to the United Nations, like a specialized agency.

6. Mr. Andersen recalled that some representatives had dwelt on the procedure to be followed pending the final establishment of the agency. His delegation did not object to the suggestion that the sponsors of the draft resolution, together with the Soviet Union, if it was willing, and perhaps a few other States, should prepare the agreement which would be the foundation of the new inter-governmental agency; that might indeed be the most practical procedure.

7. According to the statement of the representative of Canada (707th meeting), there would be a second stage, where the circle of consultations should be broadened. And finally there would be a third stage, where all States which had not previously been consulted would have an opportunity to express their views before the new specialized agency was finally constituted and its working relationships with other organs defined. While the Danish delegation was convinced that the proposed procedure was the outcome of a thorough study undertaken by the sponsors, it wondered whether it would not be possible to simplify it.

8. Mr. Andersen wished, in conclusion, to express his appreciation to the sponsors of the joint draft resolution for their preparatory work. In that connexion, he wished to pay a tribute to the United States for the information, training and research programme it had offered, and to the United Kingdom and Canada for their willingness to extend similar assistance.

9. The Danish delegation hoped that a unanimously adopted resolution would constitute the starting-point of a new chapter in world history.

10. Mr. PEREZ PEREZ (Venezuela) wished to pay a tribute to the representatives of the United States and the other countries which were in the forefront of atomic research for the way in which they had filled in the details of the plan outlined by President Eisenhower. He recalled that during the general debate in the General Assembly (487th meeting), he had stated that world welfare, like world peace, was indivisible. Unless their elementary spiritual and material needs were satisfied, the peoples of the world would live in a state of constant unrest, resulting from misery, hunger and ignorance. Such circumstances could only generate hopelessness and, arising from hopelessness, disruptive ideas. That was why the seven-Power draft resolution was such a noble effort, since its aim was to solve those problems by placing atomic science at the service of humanity.

11. Historically the appearance of technical innovations had always been accompanied by violent upheavals which, as was now known, could have been avoided. Therefore it was the responsibility of all the Members to see to it that the atomic era did not produce similar unfortunate effects.

12. The representative of Venezuela did not think it necessary to enter into a detailed analysis of a problem which would undoubtedly be more carefully studied at the scientific conference and by the international agency. Since all the Member States would no doubt be represented in those two bodies, the scope and effect of the economic and social evolution could be studied there.

13. The Venezuelan delegation wished to express its support of the seven-Power draft resolution.

14. Mr. CAÑAS (Costa Rica) said that his country possessed neither atomic scientists nor the raw materials necessary for the production of atomic energy. Nevertheless, it was vitally interested in the subject, for it hoped to share in the benefits which would certainly accrue from the proposed plan if it were put into effect. The 470th meeting of the General Assembly, at which President Eisenhower had originally proposed an international atomic energy agency, had opened new horizons for the United Nations, and aroused new hopes for all the countries of the world.

15. The representative of Costa Rica asked the co-sponsors of the joint draft resolution (A/C.1/L.105) to consider with open minds the constructive objections which had been made by certain delegations, especially those presented by the representative of the Philippines (712th meeting).

16. Mr. Cañas recalled that at the 707th meeting the United States representative had spoken of the training programme which his country was prepared to offer; that the representative of the United Kingdom had spoken of his country's willingness to share its experience in the production of electric power from atomic energy; and that the representative of Canada had spoken of Canada's willingness to share its experience in the medical field. The more the smaller nations heard about such things, the stronger became their desire that those splendid plans should be carried out. On the other hand, for a country to make its co-operation conditional upon the acceptance of its policies concerning disarmament was to obstruct the development of the small countries.

17. It was to be hoped that the countries which refused to co-operate would abandon their objections and take part in the great endeavour. If, however, they maintained their objections, the Powers which had sponsored the current proposals should proceed to carry them out, in the sure knowledge that they could count on the full support of the small countries now and on the gratitude of future generations.

18. Mr. Hsioh-Ren WEI (China) recalled that he had concluded his statement on the disarmament question on 10 November 1953 (661st meeting) by saying that the challenge which faced the world was whether atomic energy was to be used to serve mankind or to destroy it.

19. President Eisenhower's proposal of 8 December 1953 (470th plenary meeting) had been a positive answer to that challenge. Immediate steps were to be taken to establish an international atomic energy agency

under the aegis of the United Nations. Nations possessing atomic material were asked to create a world bank of normal uranium and fissionable materials to be used for productive rather than destructive purposes.

20. While the atom was a demon of destructive power beyond imagination, it was at the same time a source of unlimited blessings. From the beginning, the United Nations had tried to eliminate nuclear weapons and to develop atomic energy for peaceful purposes through international co-operation. The prospect of achieving both objectives at the same time was remote. The continued deadlock in disarmament negotiations and the creation of more destructive nuclear weapons had caused fear and even hysteria with regard to the atom. The United States proposal provided a new starting point for international co-operation in the peaceful use of atomic energy without requiring the Soviet Union to reverse its position on international inspection.

21. The Chinese delegation believed that the international development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy should no longer await international agreement on the elimination of nuclear weapons. While the world had to endure the burden of the armaments race because of Soviet obstruction, it was at least entitled to enjoy the benefits of atomic energy, just as in aviation, though military aircraft were being produced in increasing numbers, everyone enjoyed the benefits of air transportation; indeed, there existed a specialized agency for the development of civil aviation. The United States plan would create a similar situation with regard to atomic energy. That did not mean that genuine efforts towards disarmament should be relaxed.

22. The Chinese delegation was in general agreement with the procedure proposed for the establishment of an international atomic energy agency. It believed that the organization of the agency should be no more elaborate than was actually required by its functions. During its early stage, the programme of the agency was to be modest, so its machinery should be correspondingly simple.

23. Mr. Wei found that the plans presented to the Committee represented only a modest portion of the promises contained in the original proposal. The agency would be principally in the nature of a clearing-house or a broker. Perhaps the sponsors of the plan had described the agency's functions in terms only of what was feasible during the first years of its existence; it was important, however, to let the world know the ultimate objectives as well as the immediate programme of the agency. A modest programme might not be capable of sustaining the universal enthusiasm and optimism which President Eisenhower's proposal had justly aroused.

24. Mr. Wei proceeded to enumerate the basic principles of international co-operation in developing the peaceful uses of atomic energy. First, the use of radio-isotopes in agriculture, medicine, industry and scientific research should be promoted, and the distribution of reactors in various parts of the world for the production of radio-isotopes should be co-ordinated. Secondly, reactors for research purposes should be built to meet actual needs, and international co-operation through regional laboratories should be encouraged. Thirdly, pending the time when results could be expected of the large-scale power reactors which were now being built, special types of power reactors

should be designed and tested, with due consideration for efficiency, safety and security, to be duplicated for use in the under-developed areas and other parts of the world. Fourthly, in order to economize in material and manpower, international co-operation and co-ordination should be maintained in the development of experimental reactors. Fifthly, an international health code for protection against radiation hazards, and a security code to prevent diversion of fissionable materials, should be drafted, adopted and enforced. Sixthly, the exchange of information and training of technical and scientific personnel should be emphasized, and the agency should establish its own centre for exchange of information. Seventhly, the international exchange of scientific and technical personnel should be encouraged. Eighthly, a system of technical assistance should be established to promote the development of atomic energy programmes in the participating States. Ninthly, a programme should be studied for the development and financing of power resources, both atomic and conventional, in power-starved areas. Tenthly, wherever necessary, preparation should be made for any social and economic adjustments that might come with the introduction of atomic power.

25. Mr. Wei wished to emphasize the importance of the offers made by the United States and other countries with regard to the supplying of information on atomic energy and the training of technical personnel. The United States declassified documents were among the most valuable sources of information on all phases of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. First priority in the development of the atomic programme should be given to the training of qualified personnel.

26. It had been generous of the United States in 1946 to forego its monopoly of atomic weapons. It was even more humane of it to campaign for the supply of abundant electric power to all power-starved areas of the world. Except for the Soviet Union, all the countries with atomic "know-how" or materials had expressed a willingness to co-operate. The Chinese delegation believed it was the duty of the General Assembly to support the agency in order to bring about a richer world.

27. Mr. Wei reserved the right to speak again on the question of the scientific conference, after having studied the memorandum to be prepared by the Secretariat.

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.