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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. BRILEJ (Yugoslavia) said that his delegation welcomed the fact that the United Nations was concerning itself with the problem of developing the peaceful uses of atomic energy, and expressed satisfaction with the effort that was being made to achieve international co-operation in that field. President Eisenhower's initiative had been interpreted in Yugoslavia as a promise of such co-operation within the framework of the United Nations. At a time when the conditions for practical action already existed and there were compelling reasons for a common effort, any delay was bound to be detrimental. It should be recalled, in that connexion, that at the eighteenth session of the Economic and Social Council, held at Geneva in July 1954, Yugoslavia had stressed (796th meeting) the need for taking international measures for the peaceful use of atomic energy without delay.

2. The manufacture of weapons of mass destruction had so far dimmed the extremely promising prospects for the peaceful use of atomic energy. On the other hand, the concrete possibility of eliminating nuclear weapons that had emerged at the current session and the proposal regarding the peaceful use of atomic energy contributed to the improvement of international relations.

3. Setting aside, however, the political aspect of the problem, it was clear that scientific progress called for the elimination of existing obstacles and the pooling of resources. The fact that scientific knowledge had been accessible to all scientists had permitted atomic science to develop to its present level.

4. It was generally recognized in the United Nations that the development of the under-developed countries constituted the basic international problem in the economic sphere. It was therefore necessary to examine the part which international co-operation in the atomic energy field could play in solving that problem.

5. There was a striking parallelism between the participation of the various continents in total world in-

come and total world power production. Thus North America, for instance, possessed 43.6 per cent of the total world income and consumed 43.5 per cent of the total power produced in the world; Africa's share was 2.6 per cent in both cases; while Europe possessed 27.3 per cent of the total world income and consumed 27.4 per cent of the power.

6. The same relationship was apparent if *per capita* income and *per capita* consumption of power were compared; in North America, for instance, *per capita* income was five times, and *per capita* power consumption seven times, higher than the world average, whereas in Asia, *per capita* income was 4.5 times, and *per capita* power consumption six times, lower than the world average. In Europe, *per capita* income was 1.5 times the world average and *per capita* power consumption was almost the same.

7. Those data illustrated the extent to which economic progress was directly dependent on the development of the sources of energy.

8. Furthermore, in the under-developed continents, the vast distances tremendously increased the cost of the transmission of energy. The new thermic reactors would permit considerable savings in the transport of fuel and the building of transmission lines for electric power.

9. Mr. Brilej drew attention to the fact that, if the highly developed countries considerably increased their sources of power by utilizing atomic energy, the gap which separated them from the under-developed countries would be still further widened, with all the dangers that that would create. To deal with that situation, steps should be taken to accelerate the development of the conventional sources of energy in the under-developed countries, thereby creating conditions for the more efficient use of atomic energy in those countries.

10. That was the Yugoslav delegation's understanding of the second paragraph of the preamble of the joint draft resolution (A/C.1/L.105), which expressed the hope that international co-operation in developing and expanding the peaceful uses of atomic energy would assist in lifting the burden of hunger, poverty and disease, and of paragraph 2 of section B, which entrusted the proposed conference with the primary task of studying the development of atomic power. It had been emphasized by President Eisenhower (470th plenary meeting) that the experts who studied the question of the peaceful uses of atomic energy should give particular attention to the problem of providing electrical energy in the power-starved areas of the world.

11. With regard to the use of atomic energy in biology, medicine, industry and chemistry, Mr. Brilej noted that some countries where atomic energy could be used for such purposes had not achieved the industrial development necessary for the production of fissionable materials and the training of atomic technicians. He accordingly welcomed the readiness of the

United States, the United Kingdom and Canada to assist in the training of scientific and technical staff and to supply fissionable materials. Yugoslavia had already joined the European Organization for Nuclear Research, whose programme provided an illustration of the international co-operation in that field which many countries needed and desired. That regional body would naturally be able to co-operate with the future international agency.

12. The Yugoslav delegation wished to make a full contribution to the practical organization of international co-operation in the atomic energy field. It noted with approval the proposal that Member States should be informed of the progress achieved in setting up the international agency, but it felt that those Member States which were not taking part in the preliminary talks should be enabled to contribute to the establishment of the agency by submitting observations and suggestions.

13. The discussions on the setting up of an agency, which all hoped would include the USSR, had been encouraging, as might have been expected in view of the progress achieved in the field of disarmament. The Yugoslav delegation was convinced that the initial steps taken with regard to disarmament would have a powerful moral impact; they would help to improve international relations, to create a greater sense of confidence and to stimulate economic development, and they would contribute to the maintenance of peace. Moreover, the current effort to organize international co-operation in developing the peaceful uses of atomic energy would not only usher in a new era of progress for mankind, but would strengthen the role of the United Nations.

14. Mr. SHUKAIRI (Syria), comparing the current discussion with the earlier debate on disarmament, said that the emphasis was on circulation, extension and dissemination, not on prohibition, limitation and reduction. The object was to rearm nature's forces in the service of mankind.

15. It might seem strange for small countries, having no specialized knowledge and not possessing nuclear materials — or at least not aware of such possession — to take part in the debate. However, the keenest interest had been aroused by the statements made by the representative of the United States, Mr. Lodge, who had described the effects of the discovery of nuclear energy in the most varied fields, the representatives of the United Kingdom and Canada, Sir Pierson Dixon and Mr. Martin, and the representative of France, Mr. Moch, who had brilliantly covered every aspect of that vast problem. Mr. Vyshinsky could also be relied upon to make a dynamic speech. But it was perhaps the scientists who, in the silence of their laboratories, had displayed the unlimited resources of human genius, who were more likely than the diplomats to arrest the atom by the atom.

16. The world stood on the threshold of a new industrial revolution that would bring in its train economic change, new laws and perhaps new ideologies. Fortunately, thanks to the existence of the United Nations, the atomic revolution, unlike the industrial revolution, would be under the constant scrutiny of world public opinion.

17. The seven-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.105) might lead to a new chapter in the history of international relations because of the emphasis it placed on co-operation, which nuclear knowledge had now made a necessity. Whatever resolution was finally adopted, the main object was surely to confer on all mankind the benefits of a discovery that could eradicate the evils of hunger, poverty and disease.

18. There could be no doubt that the international agency would facilitate the application of atomic energy to peaceful purposes. While it was perhaps premature to examine the functions of the agency, it was permissible to hope that it would be empowered to study ways and means of setting up an international institution where students, particularly those from small countries, could learn the working principles of atomic science.

19. Nevertheless, it was to no purpose to dream of a better, easier and perhaps more luxurious life, or of conquering cancer, when human life itself was threatened with atomic annihilation. "To be or not to be"; that was the question facing all mankind. In the circumstances, it was appropriate to remember the doctrine of Moslem jurisprudence which stated that the avoidance of evil had priority over the securing of the good. The Soviet attitude was therefore understandable and at first sight not without merit. Before the world could hope for a happier life, it should secure its survival. President Eisenhower himself had said in his speech to the General Assembly (470th meeting) that the miraculous inventiveness of man should not be dedicated to his death but consecrated to his life. The Soviet position was one way of attaining President Eisenhower's own objective.

20. After a careful perusal of the Notes exchanged between the United States and the Soviet Union (A/2738), Mr. Shukairi felt justified in saying, without taking sides in an ideological conflict that was outside the scope of the present discussion, that no trace of a negative attitude on the part of the Soviet Union was discoverable in those communications. The declared aim of the Soviet Union was that atomic energy should be used for peaceful purposes and for peaceful purposes only as was clear from the paragraph [20] of the Soviet *aide-memoire* of 22 September 1954, which stated that during the negotiations the Soviet Government had insisted on the need for international agreements which would ensure that atomic energy was not used for military purposes but only for purposes of peace. In that respect, therefore, Soviet policy rested on the same foundations as United States policy. That fact should be an incentive to the display of a spirit of conciliation and understanding.

21. The joint draft resolution covered only one part of the objectives of the United States; President Eisenhower's greatest objective, the elimination of nuclear energy as a destructive force, remained to be achieved. It was to be hoped that the great Powers would labour to reach agreement on the means of achieving that goal, for there would be no point in building if what was built was doomed to destruction.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.