

appropriate cases would transmit reports to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Specific proposals were to be made by the Commission—

(a) For extending between all nations the exchange of basic scientific information for peaceful ends:

(b) For control of atomic energy to the extent necessary to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes:

(c) For the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction:

(d) For effective safeguards by way of inspection and other means to protect complying States against the hazards of violations and evasions.

In the general debate in the plenary meeting the representative of New Zealand, while welcoming the initiative of the Governments which had invited international co-operation in this matter, suggested that the control of the activities of the Commission should not be left exclusively to the Security Council. While the problem of atomic energy undoubtedly had important security aspects for which the Security Council was the competent organ, it had also aspects related to the opportunities which atomic energy afforded for the benefit of mankind. The co-ordination of the work of the Commission could more appropriately be performed by the General Assembly as the only body with general competence over the whole sphere of action of the United Nations.

The resolution of the six Powers was discussed by the First Committee at a meeting attended by virtually all the heads of delegations. The first delegate of New Zealand was unable to attend, as the Committee of which he was Chairman was sitting simultaneously with the First Committee. His substitute (Mr Wilson) recalled the arguments used by the New Zealand delegation in the general debate and asked for consideration of these and any other points that might be raised before a vote was taken, as was the invariable practice in United Nations Committees.

However, it was decided to take the vote forthwith, with the understanding that "every delegation retained the right to make objections and observations" at the following meeting. The New Zealand delegate did not feel that this unusual procedure would justify him in opposing a resolution which had much more good in it than bad, and therefore voted with the affirmative majority of forty-six.

Indeed, the oddities of the procedure merely reflected the fact that the resolution submitted by the six Powers was the product of difficult negotiations between them. Whatever the appearances, the General Assembly was being asked not to debate a proposal submitted to its own sovereign judgment, but to endorse in every particular an agreement between third parties. Undoubtedly the General Assembly felt that there