



**Second United Nations  
International Conference  
on the Peaceful Uses  
of Atomic Energy**

A/CONF.15/P/2457  
U.S.A.  
June 1958

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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Confidential until official release during Conference

THE ROLE OF ATOMIC ENERGY IN THE PROMOTION  
OF INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

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This Second United Nations Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy with its thousands of participants and its vast and elaborate exhibits is in itself the strongest indication of the importance of the role of atomic energy in stimulating international collaboration for all peaceful purposes. I say all because human efforts and attitudes do not stand in isolation and collaboration between nations in one field inevitably leads to collaboration in other fields as well.

Three years ago we met here in these halls for the First United Nations Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. Those of you who had the opportunity of attending that meeting will remember the wonderful atmosphere of good will and cordiality which pervaded this meeting. Nothing in all the fifty sessions occurred to mar the harmony which existed throughout the sessions.

Yet when this conference was first proposed on the initiative of President Eisenhower the prospects looked far from hopeful. It was doubted by many whether all the nations with strong programs in atomic energy would attend the conference and whether if they attended, they would disclose enough classified material to make the conference a success. Despite this skepticism once the United Nations Assembly resolutions were passed late in 1954 the plans went forward very rapidly and in a little over seven months after the invitations were issued the conference took place in Geneva.

It was a herculean effort on the part of the United Nations Secretariat and of the participating nations. At the end everyone felt that the result was worth the effort. For the first time scientists from all countries came together and discussed with a very great freedom matters which had previously been kept in deep secrecy. Very often for the first time scientists who were well acquainted with the work of their colleagues in other countries in the same field of atomic energy were able to meet together to discuss questions of common interest, to discover again that science transcends national boundaries and that the scientific tradition survives as long as science remains unsuppressed.

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Our conference set the stage for a whole series of international scientific meetings in which participation was much wider than could have been hoped before the great example was set by our meeting. There have been conferences on the use of radioisotopes, on neutron physics, on low energy nuclear physics, on particle physics and a number of other topics each with a very broad attendance. We in the United States have had the pleasure of entertaining colleagues from the Soviet Union and discussing problems of mutual interest with them. Likewise, scientists from the United States have had pleasurable and profitable visits with their colleagues in the Soviet Union.

It has been the consistent policy of the United States to make atomic energy a boon to mankind, a guarantee of the future of our industrial civilization, an aid to the peaceful development of our national institutions and not least a means to lessen the tensions which tend to endanger the peace. To this end we have supported with every means at our disposal the International Atomic Energy Agency, and this great International Conference in which we are now engaged. We have pledged 5,070 kilograms of contained U-235 to the IAEA in order to encourage more rapid development of atomic energy and to guarantee that the agency has sufficient amounts of material to start an active program. Our tenders of support to the Agency also include: services of a pool of from 20 to 30 scientists or engineers; a research reactor and radioisotopes laboratory facilities; 120 fellowships for training in our country and contributions to the IAEA Fellowship Fund.

We have encouraged combinations of nations to pool their resources for the furtherance of the application of atomic energy for peaceful purposes such as EURATOM by pledges of material and advantageous financial arrangements and arrangements for sharing or furthering research and development in this field. We negotiated more than forty agreements for cooperation in atomic energy developments. We are cooperating actively with the OEEC's European Nuclear Energy Agency. We have held symposia on atomic energy at the Brookhaven National Laboratory which twenty out of twenty-one Latin American countries attended. Since 1955 more than 80 kilograms of U-235 contained mostly in fuel for research activities has been shipped abroad and also more than 250 tons of heavy water to be used in reactors. Since the last Geneva conference nearly 3,000 visitors, mostly scientists, engineers, and students, but also including a number of members of Parliaments, journalists, etc. have visited the United States for atomic energy information. Through June of this year 328 students from 43 nations have taken training at the International School of Nuclear Science and Engineering which opened its doors in March, 1955. This fall the United States will offer courses in reactor supervision, reactor hazards evaluation, and monitoring techniques which can accommodate approximately 100 students from other countries. Another 260 students from 49 nations have completed the basic radioisotopes techniques training at our Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies. Comprehensive collections of technical data have been presented to 54 nations and five international organizations. These collections are kept up to date.

As the opportunity offers we will hope to do more to make atomic energy useful to all peoples, particularly to those nations who have special needs in this field.

Since our first conference there has now been established an international agency for atomic energy with headquarters in Vienna. Indeed, our conference was in some respects a forerunner of this organization designed to show the rich opportunities which exist for international collaboration in the field of atomic energy. This organization is now completing its first year. I am sure we all wish it well and hope that it will be successful in making atomic energy an agent for peace and for relief of the dread which the words "atomic energy" evoke in so many people.

An example of what can be accomplished in science by active collaboration of nations can be seen right here in Geneva. Under the stimulus of a resolution adopted by the General Assembly of Unesco in 1950 a European centre for nuclear research was set up in Geneva. This is the famous CERN laboratory. This great and expanding international institution is the result of the collaboration of twelve European nations banded together to provide research facilities in high energy physics. Owing to the great cost of some of these facilities they are beyond the capacity of any but the largest and wealthiest countries. When the burden is shared the problem is greatly reduced. Here in this laboratory, only a very short distance from the hall in which we are meeting, you will find scientists of many different nationalities, from many different regions of the world working happily together almost unconscious of differences of nationality. The great success of this laboratory is an inspiration to all of us and the embodiment of a hope that successful collaborative efforts can be expanded to other fields of science and, indeed, to other branches of human endeavor so that we may find in this arid world of strife living oases where people work together as people undistracted by tags of race or nationality.

In closing, I wish to express on behalf of the United States our thanks to the United Nations and its devoted Secretariat who under the inspired leadership of Dr. Eklund acting for Mr. Hammerskjold have made this conference such a success. We also express the hope that the tradition of these conferences will remain strong and serve to bind the nations of the world together to use atomic energy in the service of mankind.

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