

world atomics

Bulletin of the International Atomic Energy Agency

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COVER ILLUSTRATION:

The Chairman of the Board of Governors Dr. P. Winkler, IAEA Director General Mr. Sterling Cole and Deputy Director General Dr. P. Jolles paid a visit to the Soviet Union in April 1958. The photograph shows from the left Mr. Cole, Professor A.K. Krasin, Director of the Atomic Power Station at Obninsk, Dr. Jolles and Professor V.S. Emelyanov, USSR Member of the Board of Governors, at the control desk of the First Atomic Power Station of the USSR.

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

. . . . HUMANITY DEMANDS NO LESS

by Sterling Cole,
Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency

(Opening remarks by Mr. Sterling Cole at the First Session of the Second United Nations International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, Geneva, 1 September 1958)

From the world atomic energy organization, I bring cordial greetings to you, the atomic scientists of the world—a distinct honour to me, as a layman, I assure you.

Today marks a further milestone in the amazing progress towards a broader and more just distribution of atomic blessings throughout the world. Less than five years have passed since the suggestion was first made that the nations of the world pool their atomic resources and knowledge for the good of humanity—a proposal unmatched in history for its statesmanship, boldness, generosity and vision.

Firm steps have been taken toward laying a foundation upon which to reach that goal and "to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world" as is stated in the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Thanks to the forceful initiative of the scientists of the world, the atom has been taken from its fictional black box of secrecy and placed in the sun of human enlightenment. Tremendous progress has been made. Close your eyes for a moment and think back to the atomic world of 1953, then open them to the world of today. The contrast is the difference between darkness and light.

All of us recall the excitement of that first world conference on the peaceful atom, held here in Geneva three years ago—a truly thrilling and epochal event—shared by many who are here today. At that time, the



Mr. Sterling Cole, Director General

scientists themselves pointed the way toward constructive international interplay and interchange with a minimum of friction, jealousy, or rancour. It was a resounding success. Since then, other scientific meetings, conferences, symposia and seminars have been held in various places and at various times covering a variety of atomic aspects—all of them fruitful and helpful in spreading knowledge about the peaceful atom. Immeasurable credit is due the nuclear scientists! This conference, though perhaps in the minds of some it may lack the high degree of excitement generated by the earlier one three years ago, is no less vital to continued progress in exploitation of the peaceful atom.

The first United Nations Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy demonstrated that the atom could be made to serve peace. It was with the stimulus of that historic conference that governments concentrated their efforts on the establishment of an international organization to apply for the good of all men everywhere the scientific knowledge reflected in your reports to the Atoms-for-Peace Conference. The International Atomic Energy Agency was created by a treaty—statute among 82 nations, and came into being last autumn, with 67 member countries at the present time.

A creditable start has already been made. A scientific and technical staff from all over the world has been assembled in Vienna. Working relations with other international groups are being formulated. It can truly be said, and it gives me great pride to be able to report to the members of this audience, upon whose support we rely so heavily, that the Agency is ready now and in all respects to carry out any mission in the atomic field consistent with its Statute.

The Agency has call on a modest supply of special fissionable materials for use by needing countries. The first of several international codes of safe practice in the use of radioisotopes has been drafted by a special group of world scientists impaneled by the Agency. A thorough study of the need for nuclear training facilities in Latin America has been made. This month many young scientists will commence their studies at foreign universities and institutions as Agency fellows. Nearly a dozen countries have requested advice and assistance from the Agency. The major atomic countries have offered to make scientists, experts and specialists available to the Agency for short-term assignments. A scientific library with contributions from many member governments is in service and a small laboratory is being prepared for use in connection with Agency responsibilities.