

# 8 DECEMBER 1953 - 8 DECEMBER 1963

## ATOMIC CO-OPERATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS

Ten years ago, on 8 December 1953, President Eisenhower proposed to the General Assembly of the United Nations measures to build "a new avenue to peace". This was the beginning of the idea that international understanding can be fostered through peaceful atomic co-operation in an international organization.

Re-reading the President's statement ten years later, one is impressed by the continued urgency of his message. What he said in fact was that the nations of the world were living in the shadow of an overwhelming atomic threat and that steps were necessary, even though modest and untried, to break the impasse between the East and the West in the very field which caused the most profound concern - atomic energy.

The International Atomic Energy Agency became an institutional reality in 1957, when the first General Conference met with 56 members. It now has 83 members, and a further five nations will become members as soon as statutory formalities are completed. The activity on the part of the Agency during these six years has gradually expanded, although it has fallen short of earlier hopes in certain areas. Time and patience, however, have been required and 1963 fore shadows further progress.

Ten years after the proposal of the idea, scientists and statesmen can look back and be gratified that a contribution has been made to international understanding. Scientists and statesmen can look ahead, hopefully, to a future of increasing activity in this special agency to develop co-operation and agreement in the field of atomic energy.

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## PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S STATEMENT

On the tenth anniversary of President Eisenhower's proposal, President Johnson reaffirmed support for that policy. He said:

Ten years ago today, President Eisenhower appeared before the General Assembly of the United Nations and made the following pledge:

"The coming months will be fraught with fateful decisions . . . to the making of these fateful decisions the United States pledges before you - and therefore before the world - its determination to help solve the fearful atomic dilemma - to devote its entire heart and mind to find the way by which the miraculous inventiveness of man shall not be dedicated to his death, but consecrated to his life."

In his address President Eisenhower also proposed the establishment of an international atomic

energy agency which would help channel into peaceful pursuits the scientific and material resources which had been created primarily for military purposes, and noted that such an agency could serve as a vehicle to advance the use of the atom for the peaceful pursuits of mankind.

The International Atomic Energy Agency has assumed an essential and natural role in the international development of atomic energy. In each year of his administration President Kennedy supported the International Atomic Energy Agency and on three separate occasions sent AEC Chairman Glenn T. Seaborg to the General Conferences in Vienna, Austria, as his personal representative.

In the past ten years the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes throughout the world has grown steadily. The United States has led the efforts to bring

the benefits of atomic energy to the world - shared its knowledge, its skills, and its materials with other nations in every continent.

Today I reassert our continued belief in the importance of co-operation among nations in the peaceful uses of atomic energy and our belief in the International Atomic Energy Agency as an important instrument in carrying out this co-operation. I can think of no more appropriate way in which to convey to free men everywhere our intention to bring the benefits of the peaceful atom to mankind than in the words of President Kennedy in his message to the President of the 5th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria, on September 27, 1961.

"The General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency is a welcome event to all peoples who value peace. Your meeting accentuates

the enormous potential of the atom for improving man's wellbeing. We already know the atom can help place more food on our tables, provide more light in our homes, fight disease and better our health, and give us new technical and scientific tools. The exploitation of this force for human welfare is just beginning. The International Atomic Energy Agency can assume a position of leadership in bringing the peaceful uses of atomic energy to the people of the world.

"Moreover, the intangible benefits of your work are no less than the material rewards. When people from different countries work together in a common cause, they help to maintain a bridge of understanding between nations during times of tension and build firmer foundations for a more stable and peaceful world of the future. I applaud your efforts and assure you that they have the full support of the United States."

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## EXTRACTS FROM PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S SPEECH TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS (DECEMBER 1953)

"To hasten the day when fear of the atom will begin to disappear from the minds of people and the governments of the East and West, there are certain steps that can be taken now.

"I therefore make the following proposals.

"The governments principally involved, to the extent permitted by elementary prudence, should begin now and continue to make joint contributions from their stockpiles of normal uranium and fissionable materials to an international atomic energy agency. We would expect that such an agency would be set up under the aegis of the United Nations. ....

"Undoubtedly, initial and early contributions to this plan would be small in quantity. However, the proposal has the great virtue that it can be undertaken without the irritations and mutual suspicions incident to any attempt to set up a completely acceptable system of world-wide inspection and control.

"The atomic energy agency could be made responsible for the impounding, storage and protection

of the contributed fissionable and other materials. ....

"The more important responsibility of this atomic energy agency would be to devise methods whereby this fissionable material would be allocated to serve the peaceful pursuits of mankind. Experts would be mobilized to apply atomic energy to the needs of agriculture, medicine and other peaceful activities. A special purpose would be to provide abundant electrical energy in the power-starved areas of the world.

"Thus, the contributing Powers would be dedicating some of their strength to serve the needs rather than the fears of mankind.

"The United States would be more than willing - it would be proud to take up with others 'principally involved' the development of plans whereby such peaceful use of atomic energy would be expedited.