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."

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.

"Of those 'principally involved' the Soviet Union must, of course, be one.

"I would be prepared to submit to the Congress of the United States, and with every expectation of approval, any such plan that would, first, encourage world-wide investigation into the most effective peacetime uses of fissionable material, and with the certainty that the investigators had all the material needed for the conducting of all experiments that were appropriate; second, begin to diminish the potential destructive power of the world's atomic stockpiles; third, allow all peoples of all nations to see that, in this enlightened age, the great Powers of the earth, both of the East and of the West, are interested in human aspirations first rather than in building up the armaments of war; fourth, open up a new channel for peaceful discussion and initiative at least a new approach to the many difficult problems that must be solved in both private and public conversations if the world is to shake off the inertia imposed by fear and is to make positive progress towards peace."

LISE MEITNER LOOKS BACK

At the invitation of the Agency, Professor Lise Meitner gave recollections of her career in a lecture in Vienna on 20 September 1963. She spoke as follows:

Though I may try and tell you something of the development of physics since the beginning of our century, I can naturally give you no kind of connected or comprehensive report. I can only pick out a few things which I specially remember, and which form as it were a magic musical accompaniment to my life.

Lise Meitner, 1916
(Photo Radium Institute, University of Vienna)

I believe all young people try to think about how they would like their lives to develop; when I did so during my youth the conclusion I always arrived at was that life need not be easy provided only it was not empty. And this wish I have been granted. That life has not always been easy - the First and Second World Wars and their consequences have seen to that - while for the fact that it has indeed been full I have to thank the wonderful development of physics during my lifetime and the great and lovable personalities with whom my work in physics has brought me in contact.

Although I had a very marked bent for mathematics and physics from my early years on, I did not take up a life of study immediately. This was partly due to the ideas which were then generally held with regard to women's education and partly to the special circumstances in my native city, Vienna. So I lost several years, and, in order to catch up, I was coached privately for the leaving certificate (Matura) along with two other girl students and sat the exam at a boys' school, the Akademisches Gymnasium in Vienna, which was not altogether easy. We were 14 girls in all and four of us got through. I should like in this connection to make special mention of our mathematics and physics teacher, Dr. Arthur Szarvasy, who was at that time Lecturer at Vienna University and later became Professor of Experimental Physics at the Technische Hochschule in Brno. He had a real gift for presenting the subject-matter of mathematics and physics in an extraordinarily stimulating manner and was also sometimes able to show us apparatus in the Vienna University Institute, which was a rarity in private coaching; for the most part all one was given was figures and diagrams of the apparatus, and I must confess that I did not always gain from these a correct idea of the shape of the apparatus in question. Today it amuses me to think of the astonishment with which I saw certain apparatus for the first time.