

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.

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