

# THE AGENCY LOSES ITS INITIATOR

World mourning for Dwight D. Eisenhower is shared, for special reasons, by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Part of the story of how he conceived and placed before the world the idea which led to the Agency's formation is given below, much of it in his own words.

Dr. John A. Hall, now Deputy Director General for Administration, and whose work since 1953, both in Washington and Vienna, has been closely concerned with developing international collaboration, has contributed the following notes:

In a recent issue of this Bulletin (Vol. 10, No. 5), Henry de Wolf Smyth and the writer were characterised as "the two men who advised President Eisenhower in preparing his 'Atoms for Peace' speech to the U. N. in 1953, from which the Agency developed".

At that time Dr. Smyth was a Commissioner of the U.S. A. E. C. and the writer was the Director of International Affairs. Neither of us advised President Eisenhower in the preparation of the speech. Whatever contribution Dr. Smyth and I made was after December 8 1953. Because the pre-December 1953 history is not too well-known, and knowing that it would be of interest to our readers, I am providing the background, as set forth in the interesting words of President Dwight Eisenhower<sup>1</sup>.

"One day I hit upon the idea of actual physical donations of isotopes from our then unequalled nuclear stockpile, to a common fund for peaceful purposes. This would have to mean donations by both Russia and the United States — with Britain also in the picture in at least a minor way. I wanted to develop this thought in such a way as to provide at the very least a calm and responsible atmosphere in which the whole matter could be considered.

"Accordingly, in September, I told my Special Assistant for Nuclear Affairs in the National Security Council, General Cutler, of my thought. Within minutes after he left my office, he was writing to Lewis Strauss. 'The President suggested that you might consider the following proposal which he did not think anyone had yet thought of . . . Suppose the United States and the Soviets were to turn over to the United Nations, for peaceful uses, X kilograms of fissionable material. . . . '

"In the weeks following, Strauss, Cutler, Jackson and their aides worked intensively on the implications of this idea. Out of their deliberations came

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<sup>1</sup> "Mandate for Change" by President Eisenhower (Copyright by Doubleday & Company, Ind., Garden City, New York, 1962) pp. 357-359.

Admiral Strauss's suggestion for storing the uranium diluted and in solution to prevent theft, and the proposal for setting up a new International Atomic Energy Agency. To work on the draft of the speech on this subject, Strauss and Jackson met again and again at the Metropolitan Club in Washington at breakfast; appropriately, the project took on the code name "Wheaties".

"Finally only minutes before the delivery of the speech the work was done. The text, which I had revised again and again, lay open before me, retyped for the last time as I began speaking to the delegates to the United Nations General Assembly on December 8.

"At 4.00 the same afternoon, having flown directly from Bermuda, I delivered my second major speech in the field of foreign relations, this time before the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York. I had taken the draft of the talk with me to Bermuda. My primary purpose was to continue working to make it a precise statement of my views. At the same time I wanted to talk to Winston (Churchill) about it in detail and to M. Laniel in general. I wanted to ensure that these gentlemen understood what I was getting at, so that no chance phraseology — should some creep in — would wound our Allies. Mr. Churchill and his advisers, Anthony Eden and Lord Cherwell, thought there were two such phrases in the draft, and that their inclusion would tend to weaken its peaceful or constructive purposes — and tend also to emphasize American belligerence and toughness. Foster and I talked the matter over, saw that there was merit in their suggested changes and made two modifications.

"C.D. Jackson who was on the airplane carrying us back to New York, collaborated through the journey with Foster Dulles, Lewis Strauss, the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, and me in final revisions and editing. We worked late so as to give Mrs. Ann Whitman time to finish typing, and I had to ask Colonel Draper to circle New York for a half hour before landing. Foster, Lewis, and C.D. pitched in then, too. It was amusing to see the Secretary of State, the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, and my principal adviser on 'Propaganda' help run the mimeograph machine and do the stapling."

Thus was a significant idea put before the world 15 years ago. The International Atomic Energy Agency has now a membership of 101 States, and a staff of just over 1000. The contribution to international peace and security as envisaged by President Eisenhower, Lewis Strauss and the other men of that period, may soon become a reality when the responsibilities assigned to the International Atomic Energy Agency, as set forth in the Non-Proliferation Treaty, go into effect.

The following extracts are taken from the speech given by Dwight D. Eisenhower on 8 December 1953:

"The atomic age has moved forward at such a pace that every citizen of the world should have some comprehension, at least in comparative terms, of the extent of this development, of the utmost significance to every one

of us. Clearly, if the peoples of the world are to conduct an intelligent search for peace, they must be armed with the significant facts of today's existence."

"My country wants to be constructive, not destructive. It wants agreements, not wars, among nations. It wants itself to live in freedom and in the confidence that the peoples of every other nation enjoy equally the right of choosing their own way of life. So my country's purpose is to help us to move out of the dark chamber of horrors into the light, to find a way by which the minds of men, the hopes of men, the souls of men everywhere, can move forward towards peace and happiness and well-being."

"It is not enough to take this weapon out of the hands of the soldiers. It must be put into the hands of those who will know how to strip its military casing and adapt it to the arts of peace."

"Who can doubt that, if the entire body of the world's scientists and engineers had adequate amounts of fissionable material with which to test and develop their ideas, this capability would rapidly be transformed into universal, efficient and economic usage?"

"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."

"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."