

OFFICE OF THE JAPANESE OBSERVER TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary-General, Distinguished Delegates:

Before making my statement, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, most sincerely, upon your election to your high office. Certainly, it is a tribute to your noble self that the Conference, participated in by so many nations, has made a smooth progress under your expert guidance. For my part, I shall be brief in order not to add unnecessary burden to your office.

Sir, we are about to embark upon a new era of progress and prosperity throughout the world, unprecedented in scale in the annals of mankind. The utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes will so revolutionize our industrial techniques that our standard of living will be enormously enhanced, entailing a vast enrichment of our civilization and culture. Yet, the exploitation of nuclear energy is of comparatively recent development and we are still in its pioneer stage so to speak: the scientists are still contending with the unexplained complexities of the inner mystery of the atom. That shows that in a few decades to come, our mode of life will undergo an amazing transformation, subject as it is to constant changes.

It was only one hundred and twenty-five years ago that Faraday's magnetic induction of electricity was hailed as a revolutionary event that opened possibilities more wonderful than Aladdin's lamp. However, when Faraday showed his experimental electric motor to Gladstone, the latter commented rather skeptically upon it. Undaunted, Faraday is said to have retorted: "Someday you can tax it". Now, it is obvious that the tremendous new force unleashed from the atom will bring about a far greater advance in our industrial technique than Faraday's famous invention. So much so that in the not distant future, we may even reach a stage where our fabulous wealth may justify the total abolition of taxes — surely a most welcome state of affairs for us all. Of course, you may dismiss the concept of a taxless society as a mere Utopian dream but you will, I suppose, readily agree with me that should nuclear energy be used for destructive purposes, that would certainly result in cosmic suicide of mankind.

It is precisely on this account that we have enthusiastically responded to the clarion call of President Eisenhower who made an earnest and eloquent appeal for the "Atoms for Peace" plan from this same rostrum. As he then pointed out, international cooperation is absolutely indispensable in harnessing the nuclear energy for peaceful uses. It is with a full measure of international cooperation that we can ensure peace and plenty in this atomic age. Three years have elapsed since President Eisenhower made that great speech and now we, the Delegates of eighty-one nations, are assembled here to give effect to it, by discussing and approving the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Japan is extremely happy, Mr. President, to participate in this memorable Conference and my Delegation desires to contribute its humble share towards its success.

Sir, let me now briefly explain the basic position of my Delegation on the Draft Statute which is before us.

In August of last year, my Government received a Draft Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency prepared by eight nations, the original working group. That is the first draft upon which my Government was invited to offer its comments. My Government did so without delay. In fact, it was before others stated their views — a fact that testifies to the earnest solicitude of my country and people for an early establishment of this Agency.

Main observations then set forth by my Government on the first Draft Statute were as follows:

Firstly, we wanted to have the organization and functions of the Agency conform with the principle of sovereign equality of nations as stipulated by the Charter of the United Nations. From this viewpoint, we desired to make the General Conference, rather than the Board of Governors, the highest organ of the Agency. Furthermore, we suggested to increase the number of members of the Board of Governors to be elected by the General Conference, so as to make it equal to the number of other members of the Board to be designated otherwise. We thought that this would more equitably protect the interests of the so-called under-developed countries.

Secondly, it is our understanding that one of the principal purposes of the Agency is to afford the under-developed countries the facilities and benefits to be derived from the peaceful development of atomic energy. Hence, we proposed that the Agency should try to reduce as much as possible the financial burden of these recipient countries.

My Government felt highly gratified as these observations were accorded fully sympathetic considerations by the working group which, later expanded to twelve countries, has incorporated them in a large measure into the final Draft Statute which, as we all know, has usefully served as the basis of our present deliberations. Needless to say, my Delegation is grateful to the arduous labors of the working group and wishes to express its sincere appreciation.

However we would like to take this opportunity, Mr. President, of offering observations on the final Draft Statute:

1) We well understand that under the prevailing international situation, various safeguards stipulated in Article XII of the Draft Statute are deemed necessary. But we hope that with the firm growth of mutual confidence and trust among the nations of the world the need for these safeguards will gradually decrease. While such a hope seems to be reasonably warranted due to the lessening of international tension, we desire that these safeguards

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will be so scrupulously applied as to refrain from possible infringements of the sovereign right of the recipient members.

In this connection, however, I would like to state that the bilateral agreement concluded between the United States of America and Japan does not in any way infringe upon our sovereignty and that this instrument has served a most useful purpose in facilitating our peaceful exploitation of nuclear energy.

2) The Draft Statute contains a provision regarding the production of electric power (Article III, A,2) and also the exchange of scientific and technical information as well as the exchange of scientists and experts (Article III, A,3 and 4). However, the Draft Statute also says that each member will make decisions in its own judgement as to what information should be made available to the Agency. This makes us fear that the Agency may not be able to obtain adequately that classified information vital for the speedy development of nuclear electric power envisaged by the Agency. While it is quite understandable that there should still remain a veil of secrecy over the atomic energy projects of the leading Powers as long as the world lives under the shadow of fusion and fission bombs, we would like to stress the fact that science cannot make real progress without a free and untrammelled international communication. We hope, therefore, that the veil of secrecy will gradually be lifted so as to permit the supply, in increasing volume, of classified information to the Agency.

3) Since the adoption of a certain type of reactor by one country makes that country dependent upon the supply of particular source materials necessary to the operation of such a reactor, we would like to see that the constant flow of supply of these key materials by the Agency be secured.

4) In view of the transcendental importance of the civil development of nuclear energy, we believe that the Agency should maintain a close cooperation with the various Specialized Agencies of the United Nations such as WHO. Especially, it is our view that the Agency should cultivate a close contact and collaboration with the Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation. We believe that eventually the Agency should incorporate the Scientific Committee -- namely, when the latter has usefully concluded its current program.

5) We are generally in agreement with what the Draft Statute says regarding the staff of the Agency (Article VII). We particularly welcome the stipulation that recruitment of the staff should be "on as wide a geographical basis as possible" (Article VII, D) with due regard to their qualifications.

These, in short are our main observations on the Draft Statute. While it is recognizedly imperfect, it nevertheless epitomizes the results of the painstaking efforts of the working group and we believe that it is perhaps the best obtainable compromise under the prevailing circumstances. Prompted, therefore, by our desire to ensure the early start of the Agency, my Delegation generally accepts the present Draft Statute, although we may later request some clarifications concerning certain of its aspects.

Sir, let me now explain briefly the present stages in Japan of the development of peaceful uses of atomic energy. Our main efforts are being directed currently along two lines - that is power generation by atomic

fuel and the utilization of radioisotopes.

Following the historical announcement by President Eisenhower of December 8, 1953, we immediately embarked upon necessary preparations for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Thus, the Atomic Energy Basic Law, which constitutes a legal foundation for the peaceful application of nuclear energy was promulgated in due course of time. This was followed by the creation of four important organizations: namely, the Atomic Energy Commission, which serves as the supreme organ of the State to determine and direct our policy of nuclear energy development; the Atomic Energy Bureau, an administrative department set up to execute various atomic projects; the Atomic Energy Research Institute, an organ established to carry out the basic and applied research works; and the Nuclear Fuel Corporation for the production and reprocessing of nuclear fuels.

In addition, the Atomic Energy Industrial Forum has since been organized. This is a coordinating body for a number of industrial concerns that actively engage in nuclear research -- a fact which demonstrates, I think, the extent of cooperation that exists among our industrial circles in exploiting the atomic energy peacefully. It is most gratifying that with the close cooperation of governmental, scientific and industrial circles, a basic structure has now been set up for pushing ahead vigorously with various projects of peaceful development of nuclear energy.

In my country, the research on nuclear physics, which has paved the way for peaceful nuclear development, started some decades ago in the theoretical as well as experimental physics mainly in connection with cosmic ray and cyclotron. At present, we possess several cyclotrons for research purposes in universities and institutions. This shows that we have a fairly long history in the construction and research of accelerators.

It may not be out of place to remind you here that if it had not been for the interruption caused by the aftermath of the war, my country would have been in the forefront of nuclear industries. At present, we are doing everything in our power to regain the time lost.

The increase of our electric consumption has been extremely rapid, registering an annual increase of ten percent for the past five years. While this ratio is higher than the average increase in the world, a still larger increase is expected as a result of the rapid expansion of our industries. In 1955, the yearly consumption of electricity was 54 billion kilowatt hours. In 1965, or ten years later, the consumption will be twice as much. To cope with this situation, power generation by nuclear fuels, in addition to the maximum utilization of the energies of coal, oil and water power, will surely become an urgent necessity. At this moment, our engineers are planning the const-

ruction of natural uranium heavy-water reactor, with a view to advancing finally to the construction of the breeder type of reactor.

As you are well aware, we possess an adequate number of highly trained scientists and engineers and also superior standards of industry, and these will enable us to produce materials necessary for reactor construction. In fact, we are now producing various construction materials, such as graphite and zirconium of an extremely high purity.

Turning next to the uses of radioactive isotopes, Mr. President, their agricultural application has vital significance in the light of the shortage of our food supply. Medical utilization is also an active part of our research. Before the war, radio-isotopes produced by cyclotrons were used for this research. Since 1950, however, we have been importing a large amount of radio-isotopes from the United States and the United Kingdom to meet the ever-increasing demand. We expect the yearly consumption in 1956 will be over 20,000 curies. We are, therefore, planning the building of reactors for the production of isotopes. We shall also soon establish a national center for research on isotopes, in order to facilitate the research of scientists and engineers in this field. We believe that the utilization of radio-isotopes and high energy radiation source will offer a most fertile field of enterprise for my country in the future. In short, for country like Japan that must steadily expand industries in order to alleviate the rising pressures of a growing population, the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy does seem to offer a most promising key to a solution.

At this juncture, I would like to touch on the question of radiation hazards. For reasons well known to you, we are particularly concerned with this problem and our scientists have undertaken intensive studies in the search of adequate safeguards against radiation effects. In this connection, I may add that a National Radiological Research Institute designed to contribute to the studies on, and protection from, radiation hazards will shortly be inaugurated.

Sir, I have made the above remarks to show that Japan is well qualified to be the purveyor of scientific and technological skill relating to the nuclear energy in the region of Asia and Africa, as a leading industrial nation in the Far East. Indeed, we shall be most happy to serve the welfare of the teeming millions of the region in that capacity.

Mr. President, a few more words and I shall have finished. It is the intention of my country, fervently dedicated as she is to the cause of universal peace, to cooperate actively with the Agency for the promotion of peaceful uses of atomic energy. The establishment of this Agency will in itself be a most significant fact, as it is, I submit, no less than a symbol of the determination of mankind to reconstruct itself courageously in the image of God. Sir, it is our earnest desire that the inauguration of the Agency will pave the way towards a drastic disarmament and usher in the golden millenium of enduring peace and plenty, so long coveted by us, yet so long denied us.