

# Atomic Energy Confab Opens; Hope Seen For Power In Twenty Years

By FRANK CAREY  
GENEVA (AP)—Indian scientist Homi J. Bhabha opened the first International Atomic Energy Conference today with the prediction that the way will be found to harness the titanic energy of the hydrogen bomb for peaceful use within 20 years.

He said that the atomic energy problems of the world will truly have been solved forever, for fuel will be as plentiful as heavy hydrogen in the oceans.

Bhabha spoke as hundreds of delegates gathered at the opening plenary session of the conference just 19 years and one day after the first atom bomb leveled Hiroshima.

The conference in the Palace of Nations, designed to parade atomic energy in its role as an ally of industry and a potential boon to agriculture and medicine, will continue until Aug. 20. The scientists will hear hundreds of papers on technical phases of peaceful use of atomic energy. Hundreds of other papers submitted for the conference will be published for study later.

The opening session also received a message from President Eisenhower, whose historic address before the U.N. General Assembly in December 1953 inspired the atoms-for-peace program now being worked out by the international organization and the present conference.

The President's message, brought by Chairman Lewis L. Strauss of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, reaffirmed America's pledge to "help find ways by which the miraculous inventiveness of man shall not be dedicated

to his death, but consecrated to his life."

Recalling his address before the

U.N., which is sponsoring the parley, Eisenhower declared: "The atom stands ready to become man's obedient, tireless servant, if man will only allow it."

The scientists also heard a message from U.N. Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld, who said that "we have a long road ahead of us to traverse before nations can hope to eliminate the threat of atomic destruction."

Touching on possible peaceful uses of atomic energy, Bhabha, who heads India's atomic program in the field, said it already has been shown that peacetime heating and electrical power can be tapped from the "fusion" process of uranium such as is used in

atomic bombs. This is the process used in atomic power plants the United States and Britain are now building and in the 5,000-kilowatt station the Soviet Union says it has been operating for more than a year.

"It is well known," Bhabha continued, "that atomic energy can also be obtained by the fusion process, as in the H-bomb, and there is no basic scientific knowledge in our possession today to show it is impossible for us to obtain this energy from the fusion process in a controlled manner."

"The technical problems are formidable," he said, "but one should remember it is not yet 15 years since atomic energy was released in an atomic pile (furnace) for

the first time. . . . It ventures to predict the method will be found for liberating fusion energy in a controlled manner within the next two decades."

In an interview prior to Bhabha's talk, Strauss had "no comment" when reporters asked whether the United States was working on the possibility of releasing atomic energy in a controlled manner from the thermonuclear (H-bomb) process.

Several years ago Sen. Hickenlooper (R-Iowa) of the Senate Atomic Energy Committee said, "The hydrogen picture contains some hope in time for peaceful and constructive applications."

Hickenlooper declared, but neither he nor the committee has made any statement on the matter since that time.

Concurrent with the conference, the major atomic nations put on display five large technical exhibits to show the beneficial side of atomic energy and an "atom trade fair" of products available from commercial companies of various countries.

Major interest centered on the U.S. exhibit featuring an actual operating atomic reactor and on the Russian display, which included a motion picture of the reactor in the first Soviet atomic power station.

first power station could produce power at costs competitive with those of certain "small" power plants utilizing conventional fuels. The 5,000-kilowatt output is sufficient for a town of at least 10,000 people.

A U.S. expert from the AEC conceded the Russians "scooped us" in being the first to claim such competitive power production but added the United States could have done the same had it had the incentive of an unfavorable fuel situation.

The United States is building a 60,000-kilowatt plant near Shippingport, Pa., which American atomic officials say is designed to "point the way" to production of competitive power.

## Chicago Site Of Spud Meet

The National Potato Council has announced a meeting of potato growers August 11 and 12 at the Conrad Hilton Hotel in Chicago, Illinois.

A session on August 10 at the same place will consider a promotion plan for potatoes. Material financial support for the promotion has been tentatively promised by some of the eastern railroads and from other industry sources.

## Kern County Hit By Two Quakes

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (UP)—Two light earthquakes jolted many Kern County residents last night but authorities said no damage or injuries had been reported.

Police spokesmen said they believed the tremors were aftershocks of a major quake that crumpled the Bakersfield business district and killed two persons three years ago.

The shocks were felt shortly after 8:10 p.m. PDT.

WED HOLLYWOOD (UP)—Richard De Mille, 33, adopted son of director Cecil B. De Mille, and Mrs. Margaret Belgrano Van Fossen, 30, were married yesterday at the Huntington-Sheraton Hotel in Pasadena.

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11 1/4	5 ft. 4 in. to 5 ft. 8 in.	166-200	Tall
11 1/2	5 ft. 2 in. to 5 ft. 6 in.	100-130	Shapely Classic
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