

United States has allocated 100 kilograms of fissionable material to serve as fuel for experimental nuclear reactors to be built by the proposed international agency. The next day British Minister of State Anthony Nutting announced that his country's "initial contribution" of fissionable material would amount to 20 kilograms. Indian delegate V. K. Krishna Menon then told the Committee that India would allocate large quantities of thorium and uranium ores for the agency providing that none of the materials would be directly or indirectly used for military purposes.

Chief Soviet delegate Andrei Y. Vishinsky, while criticizing certain aspects of the Western nations' resolution, maintained a conciliatory attitude during most of the Political Committee debate. A Soviet-sponsored amendment to the Western resolution that would make the agency responsible to the UN Security Council and subject to its veto provisions was expected to be rejected by the Committee. The USSR, however, has accepted the Western invitation to serve on the advisory committee that is to aid in organizing next summer's international conference, and it is expected that Russian representatives will take part in the conference itself.

Nobel Prizes for 1954

THE Nobel Prize in physics for 1954 has been awarded jointly to two German physicists, Max Born and Walther Bothe, with the Prize in chemistry going to an American, Linus Pauling. Born, now 73 and living in retirement at Bad Pyrmont, Germany, was honored "for his fundamental works in quantum mechanics, especially his statistical interpretation of the wave function". Until recently he taught at the University of Edinburgh, and before that at Cambridge and Göttingen. Bothe, 63, is presently at the Max Planck Institute at Heidelberg. His award was in recognition of his development of the coincidence counting method in the study of cosmic radiation "and the discoveries he made with it", notably that charged particles were present in cosmic rays. The work for which Born and Bothe share the Nobel Prize was done about twenty-five years ago. Pauling, 53, was born in Portland, Oregon, and is on the faculty of the California Institute of Technology. He was cited for "his works on the nature of chemical bonds, especially as applied to the structure of complicated substances". The Nobel Prize carries with it a gold medal and a cash award currently worth about \$35 000. The presentation ceremonies take place on December 10th in Stockholm.

Low Temperature Scale Needed

IN a resolution adopted by the Ninth Calorimetry conference at its meeting in Schenectady last September, the National Bureau of Standards has been

called upon to "undertake investigations aimed at providing the following urgent needs of American scientists: (1) an accurate temperature scale from 10°K to the oxygen point; and (2) a provisional temperature scale and standard thermometers to cover the range 0.1° to 20°K". Pointing out that fixed temperature points and mathematical relations between resistance and temperature below the oxygen point are becoming increasingly necessary, the resolution said that NBS, which has as one of its authorized functions the establishment and maintenance of thermometric standards, is uniquely fitted to undertake the required investigations. Noting that the development of the Collins Helium Cryostat (a research instrument now in use in many parts of the world) has played a major role in making available the temperature range below the boiling point of oxygen, the resolution stated that the measurement of temperature in that range is of primary importance to the value of the work accomplished, and is international in scope. The resolution was drawn up and proposed by D. R. Stull and J. G. Daunt and was presented to the Board of Directors and to the Conference by Guy Waddington. Approximately 130 scientists representing over 75 government, academic, and industrial laboratories throughout the United States took part in the deliberation.

Atomic Energy Commission

ON October 23rd, the White House announced the appointment to the Atomic Energy Commission of John von Neumann, research professor in mathematics at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. Dr. von Neumann, a consultant to the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory since 1943 and a member of the AEC's General Advisory Commission, succeeds former Commissioner Eugene M. Zuckert, who resigned last June. Well-known for his contributions to mathematical physics, the arts of high-speed computing, and the theory of games, von Neumann is the second scientist named to the AEC by President Eisenhower in recent weeks. In September, chemist Willard F. Libby of the University of Chicago was appointed to fill the unexpired term of physicist H. D. Smyth when the latter retired from the Commission to return to his post at Princeton University. Both von Neumann and Libby are Fellows of the American Physical Society.

Another AEC vacancy was created on November 8th when it was announced that Joseph E. Campbell, Columbia University treasurer on leave to the AEC since 1953, had been named Controller General of the United States.

Dr. von Neumann's place on the Commission's General Advisory Committee has been filled by the appointment of Edwin M. McMillan, professor of physics at the University of California. Also named to the GAC were Jesse W. Beams, professor of physics at the University of Virginia, and Warren C. Johnson, chairman of the University of Chicago chemistry department.